



TAPIR TALLY

Counting the creatures at attraction



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NED'S BOOK

Old days are Gornal but not forgotten



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Park will get new network of paths

A £70,000 project to create a series of new footpaths through a Cradley park has been approved.

The work will be carried out at Homer Hill Park to improve access for its many visitors.

Council leader Pete Lowe has agreed to include the project in the authority's work programme.

The five new paths will be made in or around the perimeter of the park and will join up with the existing network of walking routes that run through the green.

Essential

Dudley Council says it will mean the majority of the park will be accessible to visitors via a surfaced pedestrian route.

Councillor Lowe said: "As part of the Homer Hill Park Master Plan, the construction of five new paths in or around the perimeter of Homer Hill Park are considered essential enhancements."

"The work will extend the existing footpath network to enable the majority of the park to be easily accessed via a new surfaced pedestrian route."

Some of the cash for the first four paths has come from the sale of the former crematorium lodge in Chase Road, Lower Gornal.

Fashion chain jobs at risk

STRUGGLING clothing retailer Bank has become the first high street store to go into administration following the Christmas rush, putting more than 1,500 jobs at risk.

The firm operates 84 stores nationwide – including one at the Merry Hill shopping centre – and all stores remain open as normal.

No redundancies have been made while administrator Deloitte is considering interest in the business from several parties.

JOSH IS BORN ON PAVEMENT

GIVING birth alone on a freezing pavement at 4.20am is no one's idea of the perfect delivery.

But little Josh Haddleton just couldn't wait to come into the world and it was there, in the open, just yards from the entrance of Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, that his mother Alexandra Smith gave birth.

Her flustered partner of 10 years Keiron Haddleton had hurriedly gone into the hospital to search for help when Josh decided he wasn't going to wait a second longer.

So it was outside on the pavement, all alone in the early hours in temperatures below freezing on December 30 that Miss Smith, from Rowley Regis, gave birth to her third child.

As she wrapped her newborn baby in her coat and held him close, desperately trying to shield him from the icy air, and waited for help to arrive.

She admitted that it was a frightening few minutes as she cradled her newborn in her arms.

Natural

The 29-year-old, of Bryan Budd Close, said: "I think I was in shock, I didn't expect it to happen."

"It was 4.20 in the morning, -2C and I just had him. It was amazing, it felt natural."

She added: "I just tried to keep him warm, holding him like a rugby ball."

"It was scary but when I saw Keiron coming I knew it would be OK and help was coming."

Miss Smith said that when she felt the baby coming two hours earlier at home on December 30, she assumed she would have a long wait ahead of her as

By Richard Guttridge

had been the case with her both of her other two children.

She said: "With my other children, I had 10-hour and 12-hour labours so I thought I could take my time but after an hour and 45 minutes I kept saying: 'we need to go now'."

"When we got to the hospital we went over the zebra crossing and I just couldn't go any more."

Mr Haddleton, 29, admitted he was petrified when he returned to see his partner had given birth.

He said: "I have never been so scared in my life. I just panicked and tried to find a towel to put over her and the baby."

"I was just scared because he wasn't crying."

"But as I got closer he cried and I was welling up too."

After the alarm was raised, hospital staff rushed out to help mother and baby.

Josh, who weighed 6lb 3oz, was checked over but was given a clean bill of health and was sent home the following day.

Miss Smith said: "He was a little bit cold but he was well enough to be home by 1.30pm the next day."

"He's amazing."



Alex Smith and Keiron Haddleton, of Rowley Regis, with baby Josh, who was born yards from the hospital entrance

Post office is due to open again

A POST office which shut without warning just a month after moving to new premises was due to re-open today (Thursday).

Halesowen Post Office in Peckingham Street had been closed since Christmas Eve.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said he had been told by the Post Office that it would open again this week. The MP said the branch has closed due to a dispute between the landlord and operator.

On Christmas Eve customers arrived to find a sign in the window advising them to use Hawne Post Office in Stourbridge Road or Old Hill Post

Office in Halesowen Road. A separate notice stated that the lease of the building had been terminated.

The closure also affected a beauty salon, which shares the same site, resulting in staff arriving to find they could not get into work with their equipment locked inside.

Shoppers spoke of their shock at finding that the branch, the biggest in the area, was shut.

Mr Morris, who attended the opening of the branch in November, said he had been assured by the Post Office that the branch would re-open. He added: "I have been in contact with senior management at the Post Office

over the holiday period to understand what has happened and help find a solution."

"The abrupt closure was due to a dispute between the current branch operator and their landlord."

"Post Office management have assured me that the branch will re-open this week and are committed to sustaining this vital local service. I will continue to work with the Post Office to make sure this happens."

A spokeswoman said: "The Post Office apologises to customers for any inconvenience caused by the recent temporary closure of Halesowen Post Office."

Man is in court over body in basement

A MAN from the Black Country has appeared in court charged with the murder of a father who was found in the basement of a house in Rowley Regis.

The body of Baljit Singh was discovered at the house in Beeches Road on New Year's Day.

He had been missing since December 23 when he had left his home in Birmingham to collect a birthday cake for his son.

Stuart Millership, who is accused of killing 50-year-old Mr Singh, was remanded in custody at Sandwell Magistrates' Court on Monday.

Plea

Millership, aged 32, of Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, spoke only to confirm his name.

He was set to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday (Wednesday) for a plea and case management hearing.

Millership was arrested on New Year's Eve in King'swinford.

A post mortem found that the victim Mr Singh, from Meadow Road, Harborne, Birmingham, had died as a result of head injuries and a knife wound to the neck.

Mr Singh had been one of the founders of Smethwick-based Mahal Warriors Football Club.

Berahino to face charge

WEST Bromwich Albion star Saido Berahino is to appear in court over a drink-driving charge.

The 21-year-old was arrested by police in October after being stopped in the early hours of the morning on the M6. Police said that Berahino will appear before Runcorn Magistrates' Court on January 19.

Berahino, who scored four times against Gateshead in the FA Cup, has been linked with a move away from the Hawthorns.



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Charity making bid for £350,000

A CHARITY which helps vulnerable people and those recovering from alcohol and drug addictions in Dudley is bidding for more than £350,000.

The cash would be used to fund a new base and increase its range of support services.

Summit House Support, which has been running for more than 20 years, is in Martin Hill Street.

Bosses have now bought bigger premises within the St Thomas's ward – one of Dudley's most deprived areas to enable them to expand.

The charity provides programmes and support for people recovering from drug and alcohol misuse.

It also offers support, advice and information for people living with HIV/AIDS as well as the lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

The charity has been working with Dudley Council on its application for £351,000 from Public Health England.

Some of the money will be used to set up a kitchen for training and a cafe.

While there would also be work units and rooms where support

groups could be run. Council chief executive John Polychronakis said it would enable the charity to have a bigger presence in St Thomas's.

"Summit House Support have recently purchased a property in the St Thomas's Ward which is bigger than the existing building and will enable the delivery of a wide range of high quality services. The space will be utilised to include offices."

Leader makes pledge to freeze council tax

DUDLEY Council's new leader has pledged that council tax in the borough will be frozen for the fifth year running.

Councillor Pete Lowe said thanks to the authority's prudence and early planning, he will be leading a motion to not increase tax for 2015/16.

But he admitted there was a risk of further job losses over the next three years as the council attempts to save £27million over that period.

Officer hit by car is out of hospital

ONE of two police officers seriously injured when a car was shunted into them at Dudley Port has been released from hospital.

Both officers suffered leg fractures after being thrown into the air when a VW Golf GTi ploughed into the back of a stationary Mercedes E350 they had stopped on a routine check at 1.30pm on Sunday morning.

They were on the A461 outside Dudley Port railway station, near Tipton.

The 46-year-old has since been released but the other man, 44, remains in hospital and continues to be treated for leg injuries.

The crash shunted the Mercedes into the police officers.

Both officers suffered broken legs and one was knocked unconscious. The driver of the Golf was trapped in the wreckage of her car.

The 37-year-old Golf driver, from Dudley Port, was taken to hospital with a suspected broken shoulder and was spoken to by officers, who continue to investigate the circumstances of the collision.

Anyone with information should call the collision investigation unit on 101.

He said: "There are no plans to raise the council tax."

"Through efficiencies and workings within the council about where we can drive out savings we have been able to do this."

But he added: "Going into 2016/17 and 2017/18 there is always that risk of job losses."

"But we have been very fortunate in Dudley because we have taken decisions quicker than many other authorities and we have been able to do things in a planned manner so we have kept compulsory redundancies to absolute minimum."

Charges

The motion, if approved, would mean the cost for an average Band D property remains at £1,283 a year.

However, charges will still be made by the Fire Authority and Police and Crime Commissioner.

This year the council was given £1,145,027 from the Government for its council tax freeze grant.

It is predicted that if a council tax freeze for 2015/16 is agreed, the authority would receive £1,154,632 from the Government.

Among the savings outlined are cuts to street cleaning and plans to shorten the collection period for green waste to save £100,000.

Maintenance of parks and public spaces would also be reduced.

Let's face it, clock has to move



The museum's Martin Fisher with the clock which used to be at Cradley Heath Bus Station

IT stood at the heart of a busy transport interchange for decades and was seen by hundreds of commuters daily.

Now the Cradley Heath clock is to be restored and preserved by volunteers at a museum in the Black Country.

The four-faced clock is more than 16 ft tall but had to make way for the £1.9 million overhaul of the bus station.

Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge was approached by Centro as to whether they would like to take instru-

ment which dates back to the 1980s. Keen volunteers will now set about repairing one of the damaged clock faces and look to put it up outside their base in Shenstone Drive or modify it for inside.

Walsall councillor Richard Worrall, a member of Centro, approached the museum. He said: "I thought that is a great place to relocate it."

Improved waiting areas are being created at the Cradley Heath interchange, next to the town's railway station.

Boss must pay up to clear pile of rubbish

A MAN who failed to clear up a towering pile of rubbish in Brierley Hill faces having his assets seized following a court ruling.

Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd director Robert McNaughton served a term in jail last year for failing to comply with a court order to clear the site in Moor Street. But the Environment Agency continues to struggle to get the 19ft high rubbish pile cleared.

Now the agency has been granted a writ of sequestration from the High Court, allowing officials to seize assets from Mr McNaughton and the company. The assets would then be used to pay for clearing up the site.

Harriet Templar-Vasey, agency spokesman said: "We are continuing to take legal action to force Refuse Derived Fuel Limited and its director, Robert McNaughton, to clear the remaining waste from the site."

"We have recently obtained a writ of sequestration from the High Court. Enforcement officers have visited both Mr McNaughton and the company, and are currently investigating what assets can be seized. It is possible that there will be further court hearings."

Boy in court after stabbing

A 14-year-old schoolboy has appeared in court charged with attempted murder after a stabbing on a Dudley bus.

The teenager from Dudley is accused of stabbing a 29-year-old man in Burton Road last Friday. He appeared at Warley Magistrates' Court on Monday. The case was adjourned and the teenager will reappear at Wolverhampton Crown Court tomorrow (Friday).

The man stabbed remains in hospital. A 19-year-old woman also injured on the bus has been released from hospital after treatment.

Variety show

COMEDIAN and actor Duggie Brown comperes a night reliving the Good Old Days of Variety at Dudley Town Hall. Due to repairs at the venue, the afternoon show has been moved back from March 3 to October 13. Tickets are £11. Call (01384) 812812.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Students get taste of university life

SECONDARY school pupils have been given a taste of university life.

Year nine pupils from six schools experienced new subjects, including animal care and film making, as part of Halesowen College's university access project. Youngsters also got to spend the day at the University of Worcester. St Michael's High School, Rowley Regis, took part.

Janet Williams, school liaison director at Halesowen College, said: "We have had some fantastic feedback from these pupils."

DIY store was closed 'for repairs'

A DIY store which closed without warning for four days has reopened.

B&Q said its Halesowen store was closed for safety reasons while maintenance work was carried out. There has been claims gas could be smelled near the site.

B&Q said its Mucklow Hill site had been closed while 'upgrades and repair work' were carried out.

National Grid confirmed it had been called to the premises but no evidence of a gas leak was found.

Muslims march in celebration

MORE than 1,000 people joined a parade through the streets of Dudley as Muslims came together to celebrate the birth of the prophet Muhammad.

They met at Dudley Central Mosque for the event on Sunday lunchtime as flag and banner waving families and friends set off from the mosque, on Castle Hill, before returning to the mosque for the Milad-un-Nabi celebrations.

Woman had lucky escape on tracks

A YOUNG woman was lucky to escape injury after she fell onto tracks as a train came into Birmingham's New Street station.

Paramedics responded to the incident at around 6pm on Monday. Ambulance service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "Astoundingly, she appeared to have no injury from her close shave with the train."

Puppy is rescued

A PUPPY stuck between a fence and a conservatory in Dudley was cut free by a fire crew. They created a gap in the fence at a property in Warrens Hall Road to release the distressed animal on Friday evening.

Parties in talks over festival proposals

PLANS are being developed ahead of this year's Black Country Day festival with councillors meeting to exchange ideas.

Leaders from Dudley Council's main political parties have been invited for talks to further develop the 2015 event.

Plans are currently at an early stage but all parties have been asked to bring their proposals to the table.

UKIP group leader in Dudley, Councillor Paul Brothwood is looking to promote the festival by creating school champions.

Wordsley representative Councillor Brothwood believes the champions will help raise awareness of the event.

He said: "I'm hoping that schools would like to take part in the event."

"I'd like to take the idea further by linking schools together through their champions."

"Last year's Black Country Festival, which was run through the community, proved a huge success and I feel that through school champions it will only help people understand their identity."

"I also want it to be non-political because this is a community festival."

Recycle cards at superstore

SHOPPERS can recycle their Christmas cards and wrapping paper at Sainsbury's stores in the Black Country.

The supermarket chain is collecting the items for the Forest Stewardship Council and last year raised more than £9,000.

Used cards and wrapping paper can be dropped into collection boxes until Tuesday, January 13. They will be recycled and a donation made to FSC UK.

Amblesote store manager Kevin Healy said: "We had a really good response from our customers last year."

Swift bus move

AN Oyster-style bus card will be available across the West Midlands in the next few months, bosses say.

Centro is introducing the electronic Swift smartcard. Currently the cards are only accepted by some bus companies but operators are poised to extend it.

Tower blocks to be revamped in £50m project

THE next stage of a £50 million project to revamp 6,000 council homes across Sandwell will get under way this month.

Work has been carried out on estates in Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and West Bromwich as part of a three-year Sandwell Council scheme.

Houses are being fitted with new kitchens and bathrooms, electrical rewiring and heating systems, along with new roofing and windows.

Contractors will now be looking at prop-

erties on estates around Smethwick and Wednesbury. Councillor Ian Jones, cabinet member for jobs and economy said: "We are working hard with our partners to make sure improvements are carried out to a high standard and within the set timescales."

The work is being carried out with three building firms - Lovell Partnerships Limited, Vinci Facilities and Wates Living Space. Work is also taking place to revamp three tower blocks in Smethwick. More than 250 homes at the site known as The

Crofts, in Windmill Lane are being refurbished. Modern balconies and windows will be installed at the high-rise blocks, which have 270 flats. They will get new roofs and external cladding, in different colours. It is hoped the work to improve insulation will help to reduce fuel bills.

The £11m project is expected to take two years to complete and will be finished in 2016. Regeneration specialist Keepmoat is carrying out the major improvement programme. It comes after the news that doz-

ens of new council homes will be built in Sandwell as part of a £12.5 million scheme.

Land earmarked for development includes the former Bolton Court site in Ocker Hill and Tibbington Terrace, both in Tipton; Doulton Road, Rowley Regis and Kent Close in West Bromwich. A total of 145 homes will be built including 36 council homes - seven at Tibbington Terrace and 29 at Kent Close - with a further 109 homes for private sale across Boulton Court, Tibbington Terrace and Doulton Road sites.

Yeltz fans dig deep to help improve the Grove stadium

THOUSANDS of pounds have been raised by supporters to improve the home of Halesowen Town Football Club.

Fans signed up to monthly prize draws, established by volunteers, to bring in cash for stadium maintenance.

Improvements were needed at the club's home stadium, The Grove, to ensure it met league standards after they were promoted.

Volunteers established the Friends of the Grove group to kick-start fund-raising. Similar schemes were set up in the past but since the initiative was re-launched last summer it has gone from strength to strength.

In total, 47 people have signed up for the monthly prize draws, each paying £10 every month. Around £2,800 has been raised so far which is split between cash prizes up to £100 and money being pumped back into ground maintenance. Work has included upgrading floodlights, decorating and renovations to the pitch.

Vandals

The Yeltz suffered a blow when vandals broke into the club's James Grove Lounge and the press box in August.

Around £480 was taken from funds to pay towards the costs of roller shutters on buildings to further increase security.

Fan and volunteer Rob Lloyd has taken on the

By Andrew Turton

scheme this season. "People have really got behind it, which is great, and it has raised quite a bit of money in just a few months," he said.

"At the same time we have held a collection for the Black Country Foodbank and have been able to give money to them too. It is all about being part of the community."

Replacing protective netting around the ground to stop balls landing on neighbouring homes is the next project the group intend to help fund.

Club chairman Colin Brookes paid tribute to the volunteers for their efforts in bringing in vital funds.

"It has been a welcome boost and we are grateful for anyone who wants to come and help us as we are a community club," he said.

Visit www.ht-fc.com or call 07905 956222 or email friendsofthegrove@yahoo.co.uk to find out more.

Supercars go on display

THE latest supercars will feature in the Performance Car Show at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre until January 11.

The Mercedes F1, which was driven by Lewis Hamilton to win the world championship, will lead a showcase display. Among the racing stars attending will be 13-time Grand Prix winner David Coulthard.

For tickets visit www.performancecarshow.com



Stourbridge Town footballer Ben Billingham suffered an horrific injury on the pitch

Fans rally around injured player

IT is the moment every footballer dreads - when the doctor says you face a long recovery after an injury.

That's the reality for Stourbridge Town's Ben Billingham, who faces months on the sidelines with his only income for his family now being insurance payouts, following a freak accident on the pitch.

Ben, a self-employed construction worker, has been a Glassboys regular, nothing up more than 250 appearances. But the midfielder's career has been temporarily halted after his horrific accident in a game at Matlock Town earlier this season.

Ben ran to chase a loose ball but his boot got caught in the turf. The 25-year-old fell to the ground, causing fractures to his tibia and fibia and snapping two ligaments.

"I looked up and the ankle was facing the backwards - I thought 'that isn't good'," said Ben, who lives in Kestrel Road, Colley Gate.

He had an operation and may yet face another.

The club has held collections for him and opened a bank account to allow fans to help out. He added: "The club's support has been fantastic and so has the fans'. They have been legends."

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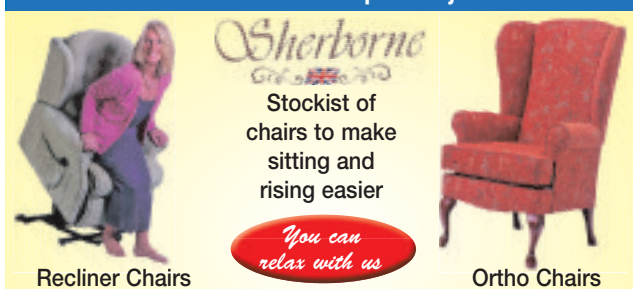
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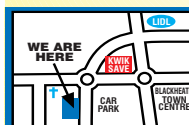
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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE festive specials of *Celebrity Mastermind* (BBC1) were a timely reminder that a) you can be a celebrity without anybody knowing who you are, and b) celebrities can get on *Mastermind* without knowing much about anything.

LEAVING aside any concerns about Whitehall's latest plan to turn women into trench-fighting soldiers, aren't you a wee bit depressed at headlines such as "Female troops on the front line by 2016"? I hope by 2016 we won't have any front lines.

HIGHLIGHT of the festive viewing for me was yet another repeat of *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. When the film was released in 1992 the cast came to Birmingham on a promotional trip and I got to chat in a hotel bedroom with Miss Piggy, Kermit and the Great Gonzo. Best interview ever.

OUR changing language. Or to be more accurate, the Yanks' changing language. The US news channel CNN carries an online report about the Nigerian families whose girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists. It is headlined: "Holidays Without Our Missing Girls." The distraught mother of one girl said: "It is a bad Christmas." The father said: "Every Christmas, we used to be complete and happy." The whole essence of this story was about loss at Christmas. No-one said a word about "holidays." But in the United States the word Christmas is deemed to be non-inclusive and politically incorrect. So they insert the word "holidays" instead, even when the result is gibberish.

FAT, flabby, wheezing, unhealthy. It is hard to move through the sales crowds without concluding that we Brits are a grossly unfit bunch. So when the Defence Secretary Michael Fallon (who has never served a day in uniform) declares: "Our armed forces should reflect the society they serve," he is spouting dangerous nonsense. Our armed forces should be the toughest, strongest, brightest young men and women we can possibly recruit. We want Her Majesty's finest, not the Queen's Own Lardasses.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Visitor figures make zoo a roaring success

THOUSANDS more visitors have been pouring through the gates of Dudley Zoo and bosses have taken on extra staff to cope.

The success continued during the festive period with more than 12,000 people visiting the grotto at the Castle Hill attraction.

In total, 22 new members of staff have been hired at the Castle Hill attraction as it celebrates a bumper year in 2014. Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock says the boost comes with more improvements in the pipeline.

Major construction projects have come to fruition including the creation of a new shop, entrance and car park. Work has continued on the renovation of the amphitheatre-shaped Bear Ravine, one of the architecturally significant Tecton structures. These include Kiosk One, which will become an information point.

Iconic

Renovations have also seen the iconic zoo entrance restored back to its former glory. The famous 'wave' entrance on Castle Hill has gone back to its original blue colour and lights have been put behind the 'zoo' letters to make them stand out at night. Metal meshing has been re-painted and the roof repaired.

Costs for the entrance and shop are £417,000, with £200,000 from the Heritage

Lottery Fund, and remaining £217,000 paid from the zoo's own coffers. The funds are part of a £1.15 million Heritage Lottery Fund contribution that also helped towards the refurbishment of the 1958 chairlift and the launch of an apprenticeship scheme for concrete repair and conservation skills.

Mr Suddock said: "It is fantastic to see the business in such a good place and growing successfully."

"Visitor numbers have grown year-on-year. Last year's figure of 265,000 have increased to 290,000, which is a nine per cent rise, and indicates a solid growth."

"Dudley Zoo is entering a new era. Projects for 2015 include the launch of Castle Creatures, featuring live animals within medieval walls, a birthday experience for young visitors, plus four newly-restored Tecton structures to explore."

Style sisters helping charity



Sisters Louise Mansfield and Naomi Edmunds, who run Duo

OLDBURY hairdresser sisters will be marking 2015 in style to celebrate their salon's fifth anniversary by launching a charity fundraiser.

Sisters, Louise Mansfield, aged 40, and Naomi Edmunds, 27, who run Duo The Art of Hair in Stanley Road, have vowed to raise money for charity every time a new customer walks through the doors this year.

The pair, who have both worked as hair stylists since leaving school at 16, have been running Duo since 2010. They will give five per cent of money received from new customers to cancer charity Macmillan to mark the salon's fifth anniversary.

Louise Mansfield, who owns Duo salon, said: "We wanted to do something special and we hope plenty of people will come in and help raise money for this great charity at the same time."

Louise and Naomi have over 35 years of styling experience between them and, before Duo, both worked in Quinton. The salon is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Call 0121 423 1145.

Deadline for views over new junction

PEOPLE are being asked to give their views on latest plans to improve Birchley Island in Oldbury for all road users, with the closing date for consultation being January 16.

Sandwell Council is developing a scheme for Birchley Island, the junction of the A4123 and A4034, which also has a short link road to M5 Junction 2.

The junction acts as a major 'gateway' to Sandwell from the M5 and also provides access to Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Dudley.

A consultation exercise on four options was carried out during April 2014 to find out how those that use the junction could be affected. Two of these were rejected.

The remaining options were for a hamburger island, with traffic passing through the junction in both directions next to the electricity primary sub-station.

The previous consultation revealed that around 55 per cent of survey respondents were satisfied with this arrangement. It is the one most likely to attract Government funding. The other option is a one-way dual hamburger, which would perform the second best of all the options in terms of reducing queues.

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The clinic's prosthetics, prescribed and crafted on premises at his multi-disciplined dental practice in Dudley have found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal.

Others wishing to resolve long-term denture issues have travelled from Dorset, the Isle of Anglesey, the Isle of Skye and London.

Over the last decade the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, has encountered some heart-rending accounts of how ill-fitting teeth have dislocated lives "but thankfully it has never failed to deliver a successful clinical solution," says principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353.

"Prosthetics have been the butt of every

comedian's joke, but things are changing. There's no reason for anyone to put up with uncomfortable and unsightly dentures any more and talking about them is getting easier.

"It wasn't that long ago that an amalgamation between glamour and dentures was unheard of, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are now increasingly being fused together at our clinics in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Kidderminster and Dorridge," adds Steven.

Youthful, engaging smile

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, Steven adds: "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients, reshaping sunken cheeks and pinched lips."

The palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional, handmade-on-the-premises

prosthetics; suction diaphragm dentures; and implant-retained over-dentures.

"We have often been privileged to transform looks – and lives – providing teeth that not only are aesthetically pleasing and hugely functional, but successfully support facial structures just like real teeth."

"Can dentures ever be glamorous? Emphatically, yes," he says.

Strident advances in technology, improved materials and revised clinical procedures are all helping to "drive the denture revolution forward and it's easy to add a real sense of natural-looking glamour to a clinical outcomes," he says.

By far the most sustainable and predictable results are found in implant-retained over-dentures, where permanently fixed implanted 'studs' in the jaw secure the prosthetic.

"For those with the right bone density, over-dentures guarantee stability," adds Steven.

Implants, however, are not suitable for all and a cutting-edge suction valve device that holds prosthetics in position is another popular option.

Infectious laughter, happy moments and "me" time meet Denture Clinic implant patients John and Gillian. Both were prescribed implant retained over-dentures

Solutions at a glance



Traditional dentures



Implant dentures



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Fastidious about quality

"For the right patient it can deliver excellent denture retainer qualities without the invasive procedures required for implant work, he adds."

Quality, handcrafted traditional dentures remain hugely popular. "Our on-premises manufacturing allows us to be fastidious about quality. We use only the best of materials and we have mature, skilled team of technicians that supports us."

"The possibilities with good looking, functional prosthetics still continue to surprise us," says Steven.

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MP calls for cap on rail prices after hike

RAIL passengers in the Black Country are paying up to a quarter more for tickets than they did five years ago, an MP has said.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin believes a strict cap should be introduced for all routes after fares rose again at the start of January.

He said that fares had risen by more than 27 per cent since 2010.

A Virgin Trains season ticket from Birmingham to London costs nearly £2,000 more than it did five years ago, from £8,028 to its current price of £9,916.

Written

The Labour MP said he had written to Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin to voice his concerns over fare rises and attacked the Government over increases since it came to power.

He said: "Lots of families in the West Midlands are struggling to make ends meet."

"Wages here are below the national average and the cost of living keeps going up."

"Now David Cameron is doing nothing to tackle rip-off rail tickets with fares soaring by up to 27 per cent since 2010 in our region."

He added: "This Government just isn't interested in listening to hard-up commuters in places like Dudley."

Boss of theatre campaign in vow to carry on project

CAMPAIGNERS wanting to reopen the Dudley Hippodrome as a theatre are refusing to give up their fight — despite their proposal being dismissed by the new leader of the borough council.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group suffered a blow after Councillor Pete Lowe claimed the members' business case was not viable.

It comes two years after a previous proposal by the group for the venue, last used as a theatre 50 years ago, was turned down.

Their latest business plan would see the venue refurbished with 1,600 seats.

Funding would be raised from grants and from renting out meeting rooms.

Discuss

Councillor Lowe has claimed that the group's business case 'didn't stand up', inviting the members for a meeting to discuss other platforms to provide arts space in the borough.

Group chairman Gordon Downing said: "It is disappointing the members found out through the newspaper rather than being contacted beforehand, it has left a lot of people upset."

"But we are not giving up. I want to have a meeting and find out how the decision on our business case was made. Our figures do

By Alex Ross

stand up. We don't intend to get the money to do the revamp straight away, we would raise cash gradually by renting out rooms. Our calculations were done using £20 for a seat to a show, that is really a minimum considering the names we could get. The case is solid, we based it on the Plaza theatre in Stockport."

Under the business plan, the projected running costs would stand at £112,000 but could be reduced by at least 80 per cent if the group was granted charitable status.

The Hippodrome would be open 250 days a year with 10 full-time staff. Profit would come from ticket sales and refreshments based on selling 800 seats a show.

Dudley Hippodrome was built 1938 and used as a theatre until 1964, when it became a bingo hall. The building has been unused since 2009.

Meeting planned over future of pub



Campaigners are fighting a bid to turn the Haden Cross pub car park into a shop

CAMPAIGNERS are planning a public meeting as they gear up to fight plans to build a convenience store on the car park of a popular Cradley Heath pub.

Proposals for the Co-Operative store at the Haden Cross Inn have been lodged with Sandwell Council and will be considered in the coming weeks. The scheme would reduce parking spaces for pub-goers from 30 to five.

Chairman of the Friends of Haden Cross Inn, Tim Haskey, said: "The reason we are campaigning is to save the pub. But there is also the issue of health and safety. The pub is on a busy road and although this shop may not increase traffic it would increase the number of manoeuvres on and off the car park. It is an accident waiting to happen. A third issue is we just don't need another convenience store around here."

New River Retail, which owns the pub, said the proposals had been designed to help safeguard its future.

The friends host a public meeting at the pub on Tuesday, January 13, 7.30pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police to target a drug deal hotspot

POLICE patrols are being stepped up after residents raised concerns about drug dealing in Halesowen.

They say it is taking place in Nimmings Road, attracting more people to the area. The issue was raised at a recent police meeting.

Sergeant Liz Benson, of the Halesowen North neighbourhood team, said: "Residents have raised concerns at the recent PACT Meeting of drug dealing taking place on Nimmings Road, their concerns are that this is becoming more frequent and attracting more attention to the area."

"Police Officers and PCSOs will be carrying out active patrols in the area to eradicate this problem. Stop searches will be carried out if necessary."

Motorcyclist hurt in crash with bus

A MOTORCYCLIST was taken to hospital with a suspected broken leg after hitting the back of a bus.

The accident happened in Moor Street, Brierley Hill, at around 3.25pm on Saturday.

Firefighters believe the motorbike slid on a metal drain cover after rain made roads greasy.

The fire crew helped raise the bus to allow them to pull the bike from underneath it. They gave first aid to the rider until paramedics took over.

The road, near the junction with North Street, was blocked for up to an hour after the accident.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

KEANE flips! So screamed the headline of one national tabloid after it emerged that the fiery former Republic of Ireland star had sought a confrontation with Villa on-loan midfielder Tom Cleverley at his home.

Apparently, Keano – to those not familiar with The Beautiful Game, he is the one with the beard like Saddam Hussein while he was on the run – thought Cleverley was behind newspaper stories about training-ground bust-ups during his short-lived spell as Villa's assistant manager.

So how did Keane flip exactly? Did he:

(a) Grab Cleverley in a headlock, lift him over his shoulder, and then slam dunk him on top of his water feature?

(b) Confront him in his kitchen, slap him about a bit with a fresh kipper, before continuing the fight outside, culminating in a spot of grappling in the swimming pool?

(c) Ring his doorbell 'very aggressively' and wait outside, before deciding Cleverley was not at home and driving off.

The answer, by the way is (c). Not exactly Keith Moon, is he?

□□□

A judge has granted an injunction to stop boy racers wreaking mayhem on the streets of the Black Country and surrounding areas, saying there appeared to be 'complete lawlessness' around the problem. The move follows a similar injunction which was granted in 2012.

It is hardly a new problem. I remember it first rearing its head around 15 years ago, when hundreds, if not thousands, of the blighters used to meet up around the Merry Hill centre and neighbouring industrial estates every Thursday nights.

During the research for one story about this, I even had to buy a copy of a boy racer magazine which had allegedly been encouraging these meets.

Boy, that took some front. I sat for around five minutes outside the newsagents in my totally conventional and unmodified car, trying to work out a strategy for buying this dubious publication without feeling too embarrassed. I dunno, maybe buying a few 'adult' magazines to hide it in or something.

Anyway, the magazine did cast a rather fascinating light into this bizarre sub-culture. For example, it came with a free CD featuring timeless tracks such as 'Big Up Your Spiff' or 'Time To Get Ill'. Like you hear in the background at all the best dinner parties.

Strangest of all was the fact that many of the people who attended these meetings were not from the vicinity at all.

Some of them would diligently drive their garish-looking vehicles all the way from places like Brighton or Leeds just to experience the delights of a Thursday night at a KFC car park in Brierley Hill.



Sarah Redding with Pierre, a hissing cockroach



Gemma Warboys with Ronnie the tapir at the zoo



Monkey business – baboons are counted up at the zoo

Zoo tapir tally and cockroach count

Like the Biblical Noah's Ark the animals of Dudley Zoo are all counted in for the attraction's annual census

"HAS everyone got a calculator and clipboard? Then let the counting begin."

Those were the final instructions issued to the keepers at Dudley Zoo who have been preparing for a week like no other.

Workers are being kept busy, carrying out the mammoth task of counting each of the animals as part of the annual census.

There are more than 1,800 creatures at the 40-acre site and now every invertebrate, bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile is being totted up. From the most minuscule ants to the tallest giraffe – it will all be documented.

The zoo is obliged to keep an official tally of its animals every 12 months as part of its licensing requirements, with the census taking five days to complete.

Rather than it being the case of hoping the all the animals keep still long enough to be counted, the task is thankfully made a little easier for most of the zookeepers.

Microchipped

Many of the animals, including Madagascar lemurs and a red-necked wallaby, are microchipped, like domestic cats and dogs, and can be individually scanned with a hand held scanner. Others, like the reindeer and Barbary sheep have ear tags while birds have flipper bands or coloured foot rings which contain individual codes, making them fairly easy to count up.

Bigger animals such as the Sumatran tigers and giraffes are easily identifiable by their unique patterns and coats and can be totted up in a matter of minutes – a change in number of such large an-



One of the zoo's workers getting a head count on the sites flock of flamingoes

imals is not something that would go unnoticed.

Those responsible for larger animals have it easier than their colleagues in charge of insects, spiders and other tiny critters.

The stick insect's party trick of blending into its surroundings isn't appreciated by the keepers at this time of the year.

There were around 120 stick insects at the attraction at the last count, though separating the wood from the trees can be tricky. They can also breed continually, meaning the total can fluctuate from one day to the next.

The zoo's chief executive Peter Suddock said: "It always poses a few problems when it comes to stick insects as not only do they move around as staff are attempting to count them, but they

also have a camouflage habit of clinging to keepers' clothing usually just out of reach on backs and shoulders."

Penguins can be tricky too, he added.

"Dudley Zoo is home to the UK's largest colony of parent-reared Humboldt penguins and with 66 constantly moving birds sharing the pool and beach, the annual headcount can take time."

Dudley Zoo's numbers have been boosted by a host of new arrivals that are being counted for the first time.

They include 11-month-old male Rothschild's giraffe Kito and eight-month-old Carpathian lynx triplets Dick, Dom and Daphne. Malaku the snow leopard was born in April to the delight of zoo staff.

Mum and dad Nanga and Margaash's first cub had died suddenly less than 12 months earlier. Gelada baboons Billie

and Ambo also swung into the zoo, while Boo the chinchilla was another new arrival. But while the many births were greeted with much cheer, there was also sadness with the deaths of two of the zoo's heavyweights.

Favourite

Census veteran Orry the Patagonian sealion, a favourite with visitors, passed away in July at the age of 22.

The zoo also lost male Asiatic lion Mwamba, only a year after being brought in from Devon.

All zoos and wildlife parks in Britain are required to carry out the yearly census. The data is used for zoo management and international breeding programmes for endangered animals.

It also provides a back up for the site's Zoological Information Management.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THEY'RE coming to a street near you. It's election year and pretty soon MPs, candidates, activists and hangers-on are going to canvas you.

It sounds a bit sinister, like some form of guerilla art. But for some reason it just seems like the right thing for any aspiring politician to do – to connect with the electorate.

It all seems a bit unfair to me because they'll descend with no prior notice or appointment and might well interrupt dinner or at a crucial moment in the Breaking Bad box set.

Even so, if they do come along, use this chance to grill them because it's been half a decade since we had a General Election and it's about time they were properly put on the spot by the people they serve.

I'm looking forward to May because after that we'll hopefully have a Government that's actually getting on with the business of governing, rather than just going through the motions for the next few months while parties try to curry favour with an ever-more-weary electorate.

Parliament has run out of things to do. This is because of a little thing known as the Fixed Term Parliament Act, which effectively sets the date for a General Election at exactly five years since the last one.

In order to create a 'strong and stable' coalition with the Liberal Democrats, David Cameron dispensed with the Prime Minister's right to decide when the time was right to go to the country.

But the Tories and Lib Dems have exhausted the things they can agree on and are now trying to distance themselves from each other.

The Lib Dems are effectively finished around these parts. In the May 2014 council elections the party found candidates to stand in a mere 27 per cent of wards.

Even in Cannock Chase, where the party was the largest group four years before, they found just six candidates for 13 seats.

David Cameron likes to refer to this as the most important election in a generation. He may have a point.

What we're dealing with here is a re-hash of 2010 when the country delivered a hung Parliament. Back then it was compared with the election of 1974. But with the uncertainty that created, Harold Wilson went back to the country again before the year was out and was rewarded with a majority of three. The Fixed Term Parliament Act stops that.

We get one shot at saying who we want as our MP for the next half a decade. Before that, it's up to them to bombard us with leaflets, promises and scare tactics. But that moment in the polling station is all you have until May 2020 unless MPs vote to dissolve Parliament. That's why this election is so important.

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Nature is raw-fanged and red-toothed

I have long believed Peter Rhodes to be somebody pos-turing as being attuned to ru-ral life, labelling his cottage, or whatever it maybe, as 'Chateau Rhodes'.

He makes comment in a recent col-umn that David Cameron wants to make foxhunting with hounds legal again and opines that it would be po-litical suicide.

I have no idea of the political lean-ings of ordinary folk or landowners in

rural areas, no more than Rhodes prob-ably does. But I think the majority are pretty well in accord in trying to get the present foxhunting ban repealed.

Regardless as to whether he is a farm labourer or a farmer, the loss of a chicken in the back garden or the slaughter of lambs in a field by a fox has an impact. The fox is vermin, not a lovable rogue as people like Rhodes would possibly have you believe. A fox will randomly kill not only for food but for the enjoyment of slaughter.

Whatever Rhodes might believe in his sanitised world of state-of-the-art

wood burning stove, most of those who work the land would concur that hunting with hounds is a far more effi-cient way of keeping the fox population down than shooting them.

Do-gooders should get real, wildlife is raw-fanged and red-toothed. Let those who manage our wildlife and countryside adopt the best meth-ods of controlling wildlife that is less than eco-friendly.

And Rhodes, chuck your green wel-lies in the bin.

**J B WALDRON
DUDLEY**

Petition in bid to open rail route

WOULD your readers like to support those of us who have been asking for the full length of the Black Country Rail Line to be re-opened over very many years? My petition is at: <http://e-peti-tions.direct.gov.uk/peti-tions/73031>

The line connects with the national rail network at Stourbridge Junction and Walsall and goes near to Merry Hill, the Waterfront, Dudley Zoo and Castle, the Black Country Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

Birmingham has had so much spent on it and is still getting further tram exten-sions to replace the buses and to link with HS2.

We, in the Black Coun-try, should now be asking for our 13 miles of national train line to be re-opened to boost business, leisure and to bring people in from all over the UK to our four Black Country boroughs.

**T WELLER
HALESOWEN**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Touching memory of a choral tribute

OF the hundreds of concerts I have been part of, as a chor-ister with the Gentlemen Songsters for almost 40 years, there are two which stand out most in my memory.

One was singing in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen for the opening of the NIA Centre, Birmingham, and the other was during a visit to the war graves at Nor-mandy and Arnhem. The choir's oldest singing member is 90-years-old second tenor Albert Evans. Albert was only 18 years when he served in the Army and became friends with a fellow soldier who was a few years older. Albert looked up to him and they became mates. Sadly Albert saw his friend be killed at Arnhem.

With the help of then choir chairman Tony Partridge they found Albert's friend's grave. Albert wasn't alone shedding his tears standing at the foot of the grave salut-ing his comrade. He had the choir sharing his grief. Before leaving that day the choir sang Morte Christe. I then heard a voice call out loud and clear: 'thank you gentlemen'. Could it, I wonder, have been the voice of God?

**J GRAINGER
STOURBRIDGE**

Dark nights and dim road users

I will be glad when the days draw out and we get light nights again. I am fed up with seeing cars with defective lights and people walk-ing about in dark clothing.

I was driving along Pri-ory Road in the direction of Wolverhampton. Just as I breasted the rise by the new estate, a car coming towards me pulled onto the bay near to the shops on my left. This person had his headlights on full beam, which dazzled me as a car driving on its correct side came the other way with only a nearside headlight on. This gave the possible impression of a motorcycle. Two offences in one incident, parking on the wrong side of the road and defective headlights.

My wife was driving at Bromley when a young-ster on a cycle, wearing dark clothing and with no lights, rode between us and on-coming traffic.

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Street party in Stickley Lane for the Coronation in 1953



Archie Williams with blind coalman Ebenezer Turner, leaning on the van



Cliff Richard visits Robert Street School, Lower Gornal



The 1955 Carnival Queen, Wendy Smith, with her attendants

Local author Ned is grabbed by Gornals

NED Williams first ventured into The Gornals, to watch The Beatles' Help! at the Alexandra Cinema almost 50 years ago.

He had no inkling then that years later he would be publishing a book about the area.

The trip, in 1965 introduced the now 70-year-old author to Upper Gornal, Lower Gornal and Gornal Wood - where "Furriners" from outside the villages were looked at with confusion and nobody ever had any reason to leave.

Mr Williams has written 50 books about the Black Country, covering everything from local railways to cinemas, theatres and chapels.

His latest turns a spotlight on the three villages - known locally as The Gornals - and their people, places and history.

The father-of-two, who has lived in Wolverhampton since 1974, said: "It's an area that hasn't been properly covered yet."

MEMORY LANE

Report by Matt Growcott

"Other books tend to write about the larger towns.

"I have been trudging the streets stopping people and asking for stories and photographs. It is backed up with research.

"It's always great when you can find pictures in the past that relate to people and places that are still around to see. There are lots of characters."

Take, for instance, the mystery of William Jones. According to the book, during the early 1900s, Jones sold lamp oil, drapery and bedding from his shop in Lake Street, Lower Gornal. He had his own branded horse and cart and claimed to trade in places as far reaching as London.

In 1904, at only 34, Jones vanished, never to be seen again. His wife, Jane, continued to run the business, before selling it six years after her husband's disappearance.

Today the building is used as a hostel and is owned by the church.

Throughout its history, a number of successful businesses have been built across The Gornals. It's part of the reason why these villages became so isolated, and why so many of the older generation spent their entire lives rarely stepping out of its borders.

So isolated were these villages that a couple from different parts of the Gornals is jokingly referred to as a mixed marriage.

Upper Gornal's Spring Farm Dairy had a fleet of vans and a strong force of milkmen delivering, according to the slogan embossed on their bottles, "pure, rich, safe milk." Edward Pyatt owned the dairy, as well as a garage, a shop and a farm. He had started out as a miner, but dreamed of a life farming animals.

The Gornals has been published by Uralia Press and costs £13.50. It is available from Bywater News, in Upper Gornal, Waterstones, WH Smith or call Mr Williams on 01902 773376.



Miriam Marson, nee Pyatt, outside Edward Pyatt's shop

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Campaigners want to get on with Rest of project



John Kay, Ian Cooper, Donella Russell and Graham Harris outside the former Sons of Rest building, Halesowen

CAMPAIGNERS who saved a former Sons of Rest building from demolition say they are hoping to begin work on restoring the building in the coming months.

The Hasbury Community Association (HSA) has been spearheading the campaign to save the Halesowen building.

They say 'red tape' surrounding the lease of the building is currently preventing them from starting the work but hope it will be resolved soon.

Dudley Council transferred the lease of the building to the HSA last year after the group managed to prevent the authority from selling it off for demolition, although it continues to own it.

The group plans to keep the centre open after refurbishing it for the use of the community as a whole and has had interest from several community groups.

Councillor Ian Cooper, who campaigned to save the building before he was elected in May, said: "We have seen so many community buildings across Halesowen close in recent

times and I think it is our ability to keep these places open that marks us as a community.

"We did not want to see another building lost because of the financial pressures the council is facing and that is why we worked so hard to keep it open. We have a lawyer looking at the lease currently and we are waiting to hear back from the council. It is nothing serious and mainly red tape."

Proposed work to the building could cost the association upwards of £7,000. It was constructed in 1940s as one of five Sons of Rest sites in the Halesowen area to be used by war veterans.

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£300,000 to pay for foreign children

TWO schools are set to receive almost £300,000 to help deal with an influx of foreign pupils. It was revealed recently that up to 140 languages are spoken in Sandwell schools.

Holly Lodge Science College and Shireland Collegiate Academy say that the 'high-cost pupils' mean they are having to employ more teachers and create extra classrooms to cope with the influx.

At Holly Lodge Science College in Smethwick, the school had 50 extra mid-term admissions in just over a year, with 27 of those being new to the UK or having English as an additional language. The school has had to employ three extra teachers as well as four learning support assistants.

At Shireland Collegiate Academy, also in Smethwick, there have been 34 extra mid-term pupils over one year. The school says the majority of the new admissions do not speak English as a first language or have special needs – one pupil could not write in any language.

Both schools have requested money from Sandwell Council. Holly Lodge had asked for

£209,090, but is set to receive £134,172. Shireland Collegiate will get £142,188.

The funding will come from a £1 million contingency fund set up to give extra cash to schools who have pupils arriving mid-term, including those new to the country.

Principal Schools Accountant Rosemarie Kerr states in a report: "A few schools are reporting operational and financial difficulties as they work with the authority when providing additional classes and accepting mid-term admissions pupils. A significant proportion being new arrivals, who as well as having English as an additional language, present with high deprivation needs."

Team's on the ball
for growth with kits



Glyn Marston, with back, from left, Chelsie Guy, Josh Roberts, Lee Walters, Dale Williams, and Liam Marston

PLAYERS at an up-and-coming dodgeball squad have unveiled their new name and kit as part of the expansion of the club.

The Black Country Knights is the new adult team that has grown out of Walsall Warriors. The Warriors remains the name of the junior arm of the club set up by former marathon runner Glyn Marston.

The Knights are celebrating the arrival of their snazzy new blue and black shirts. Mr Marston says: "The design of the new shirt is proving quite popular. People from other teams are buying them and a female player from the United States also ordered one. We're hoping the new shirts will help to raise our profile."

The team plays in the Midlands based Northern Conference Division Two League. The Black Country Knights train on Mondays at Willenhall Youth and Community Foundation, in Gome Street, and on Wednesdays at Portway Lifestyle Centre, in Banbury Road, Oldbury.

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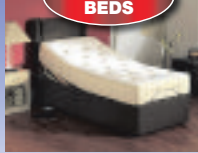
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Lavish donation to the tune of £250 for busker

BUSKER Bradleigh Aston is used to shoppers giving him their spare change – but he was left speechless by a donation to the tune of £250.

The 18-year-old Halesowen College student was singing in Dudley High Street when he was handed the generous gift.

The musician, who spends his week-ends busking in the town centre, says he was taken back by the woman's generosity.

Her identity is not known and despite him putting appeals on Facebook and Twitter in a bid to thank her he has been unable to track her down.

Bradleigh, from Lower Gornal, received the cash after appearing in The Chronicle – and the front page of its sister publication The Express & Star in December.

He said: "Since appearing on the front page of the paper I have had a lot of people around Dudley recognising me.

Shocked

"People have been walking past me saying 'Happy Christmas Brad, have a good one.' or 'You are that busker from the paper.' it has been a bit mad.

"The day after I was on the front page I was busking and a woman came up to me and asked for my business card which I gave to her and she walked away.

"A little while later she came back and put a plastic tub into the compartment of my case and said: 'Look after that and have a great Christmas.' and walked away again.

"When I opened the tub up, there was £250 cash in it, I was so shocked I did not know what to say.

"I have tried so hard to get hold of her to say thank you, but I am yet to hear from her.

"I would love to be able to thank her



Bradleigh Aston, aged 18, who spends his time busking in Dudley High Street

properly. I have not spent the money yet but I am thinking of spending it on recording equipment," he said.

Bradleigh came 13th in the nationwide Brand New Artist 2015 Awards competition, which was run by music label Negart Records.

He said: "It was brilliant to come within the top 15, it was out of 100 artists so I cannot complain.

"The top five get to take part in a televised festival and the top 15 get to

be part of a compilation album next year.

"I worked so hard during the competition to push myself, I had posters around Dudley and posted on my social media sites, the support from the community has been great.

"Because of working so hard, the competition sent me an email asking me to taking part in both, I am so thrilled to be given this opportunity," he said.

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Jail for eight cousins in car parts export racket

EIGHT men from the Black Country – including two from Dudley – are behind bars after cars across the Midlands were stolen to order, dismantled and the parts shipped to the Middle East.

The gang, all cousins, was sentenced for a conspiracy to steal 4x4 Toyota and Vauxhalls, which they would scour the streets of the Midlands for on demand.

The men appeared at Worcester Crown Court after pleading guilty to conspiring to steal motor vehicles and were jailed for a total of 28 years and nine months.

The court heard there were 81 thefts and attempted thefts throughout Staffordshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, West Mercia, Derbyshire and Leicestershire between March 2012 and April 2013.

Targeted

Predominantly Toyota Hilux, Toyota Hiace, Toyota Landcruiser and Vauxhall Brava vehicles were targeted.

They were taken from properties across Warwickshire in Rugby, Tamworth, Atherstone and Kineton, as well as throughout West Mercia in Bromsgrove, Worcester, Kidderminster, Market Drayton, Bridgnorth and Telford.

The stolen vehicles were dismantled with the engines and gear boxes being exported to the United Arab Emirates, while the remainder of the chassis and shells were weighed in at scrap yards.

The gang had found out that the parts, in particular those from Toyota 2L engines, were in high demand in the Middle East so they set up a rapidly-expanding operation.

A ninth man Yawar Jaffari, 42, from London, had links to the United Arab



Rocky Butler, aged 35, from Dudley



Richard Edwards, of Brierley Hill

Emirates and acted as the go-between. He would take orders from contacts abroad and pass them on to his accomplices in the Black Country, who then stole whatever had been requested.

The vehicles were taken to the Cannock Wood Industrial Estate in Cannock Wood Street, where the men worked from three units.

They started out at a site in Torton Paddock, Kidderminster, owned by Rocky Butler, of Fullwood Crescent, Dudley, but needed to move to bigger premises as demand rocketed.

All eight men had grown up together in Blakenall, Walsall. Once they got involved with Jaffari, they began stealing the cars and within weeks had a regular export line running.

Police said many traders had been hit when their work vehicles were stolen.

Detective Constable Karl High, of West Mercia Police, said: "This was a lengthy investigation.

"This sentencing should serve as a

warning that vehicle crime will not be tolerated."

Leslie Taylor, 33, of Rosewood Court, Bilston, was jailed for four years; Butler, 35, got five years and four months; James Bailey, 36, of Edison Road, Walsall was sentenced to five years and four months; Richard Edwards, 29, of Chapel Street, Brierley Hill to two years; James Taylor, 26, of Harden Close, Walsall was jailed for two years and eight months; Terence Gould, 46, of Botany Road, Walsall, for two years; Colin Brookes, 30, of Hunter Crescent, Walsall was sentenced to two years and Paul Kendall, 42, of Irvine Road, Walsall to a year and four months.

Luke Moore, 26, of Leys Crescent, Brierley Hill and Gary Winter, 31, of Goscoe Place, Walsall, were previously convicted and sentenced. Moore received a suspended sentence and Winter was jailed for 16 weeks. Jaffari, 42, of Carlton Road, London, got three years and nine months

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From left, Elvis impersonators Bradley Munns, 13, Elias Boswell, 13, Dylan Bouen, 11, and John Paul Melling, eight

THEY may only be youngsters but they were all shook up as Elvis Presley impersonators headed to Birmingham in a bid to be crowned the King of Kings.

Lookalikes of all ages - including pint-sized versions - slipped on their blue suede shoes and slicked back their jet-black quiffs to take to the stage at Europe's largest Elvis convention. The three-day event saw Birmingham's Hilton

became the Heartbreak Hotel in the week the King would have turned 80. While the adults battled it out, children as young as eight took to the stage in the under-14 category.

Germany's Steven Pitman, originally from America, was crowned European Elvis Champion. There was almost success for father-of-two Mark Summers, of Halesowen, who finished in third place for the second year running.

Tributes to police sergeant

A TOP Black Country police officer has died after battling cancer for nearly a year.

Steve Knight, aged 54, who grew up in Dudley, was a sergeant based at Wolverhampton's Bilston Street police station and had served with West Midlands Police for 23 years, originally as a Pc in his home town. He joined the force after spells as an engineer and salesman.

He leaves two adult children Kayleigh and Chris, as well as stepsons Jordan and Connor.

The Wolves fan, a regular at Molineux, was diagnosed with cancer in January last year.

He married his second wife Jackie in March 2013 but they had been in a relationship for eight years. Paying tribute to her late husband, Mrs Knight, 47, said: "He was a loving family man and did everything for his family."

"He was gentle and loved his job and put all his effort into it. He brought me great happiness."

Hundreds of family, friends and colleagues attended his funeral at Streety Crematorium.



Sgt Steve Knight

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Campaigners celebrate as historic building saved

CAMPAIGNERS have won a 10-year battle to save a Victorian school building from the threat of bulldozers.

The old Mount Pleasant School in Coseley had housed the Dudley borough archives but has been empty since the service moved into premises next to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

Campaign group Friends of Mount Pleasant – which includes several former pupils – feared the move would lead to the building’s demolition. But Dudley Council has confirmed proposals are in place to convert the site into council homes.

Brian Guest, Head Boy at the school during the 1950s, said: “The school played a vital role in the education of countless people in the area since it was built in 1879.

“We are really over the moon the council has decided to put the building to good use.”

Mount Pleasant School was open for more than a century before being taken over by the archives in 1992.

The Friends group believes it is one of the last buildings owned by Coseley Urban District Council which was abolished in 1966.

It will now be included in the council’s £40 million scheme to build around 350 council homes during the next five years. The building will be retained and converted into 15 properties.

Stray dogs problem costs £60k for council

DUDLEY Council spends more than £60,000 a year on dealing with stray dogs in the borough, new figures have revealed.

During the course of the last financial year, the authority spent a total of £60,500 – which equates to around £165 a day – on lost and abandoned animals. Hundreds of stray dogs were picked up on the borough’s streets in the past year – with around half returned to their owners.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: “In 2013/14, 522 stray dogs were collected from streets in the borough and we returned 242 of these to their owners.

“Since April this year through to the end of November we had collected 265 stray dogs and returned 145 to their homes.”

Reclaimed

She added: “We invest around £10,000 each year on a kennels contract, and we work closely with them to re-home dogs when they are not reclaimed by their owners.

“To help us increase the likelihood of dogs being returned to their owners the council encourages people to identify their dog with a suitable tag bearing their name and address as well as having the dog micro-chipped,” she said.

Stray dogs found are taken outside of the borough to City Dogs Home in Bucknall, near Stoke-on-Trent, which can charge up to £60 to £70 for a week’s stay.

Recently, it was revealed that Sandwell Council spends more than £300 a day to send their dogs to the same kennels, paying out

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Youngsters urged to get ready for sport

FREE sports sessions are on offer for young people in Tip-ton thanks to a new scheme being launched this month.

Ready for Sport will provide weekly activities including basketball, football and dance training for young people at Jubilee Youth Centre, Powis Avenue.

As part of the scheme young people will be asked which sports they want to take up and which days of the week they want to do them. For 30 youngsters there will be the chance to complete leadership qualifications.

The Ready for Sport initiative encourages young people to get involved in sporting activities. Funding has been made available through the Sandwell Community Alcohol Project which won a Sport England Grant and will be working in partnership with CentreSpot.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for health, said: “Young people can have a say in the sport they want to do and when in the week it best suits them.”



Brian Guest and Beatrice Boyling celebrate saving the former Mount Pleasant School building

Education hub at old school backed

A £1.2 million project to create an education and training centre on the site of a former school in Dudley has been backed following a public consultation.

Dudley Council wants set up a learning base to provide education for over-16s with learning disabilities at the old Pensnett High School.

A £1m grant has been secured towards the project, which includes demolishing former buildings on the site including the main school building that fronts Tiled House Lane and the linked science block.

The new centre which will be created by refurbishing one of the remaining buildings and will be run by Pens Meadow Special School.

Cabinet member for children’s services Councillor Tim Crumpton said: “The consultation around the proposals for a state-of-the-art education hub at the former Pensnett School site has now closed and received extremely positive feedback.”

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MP anger at blind eye to minor crime

SUGGESTIONS that police officers may ignore crimes such as shoplifting and anti-social behaviour due to budget cuts have been branded 'ridiculous' by a Black Country MP.

Chief Inspector of Constabulary Sir Tom Winsor said police would have to focus on the 'crimes that matter most to people' due to shrinking officer numbers. He said 'nobody would argue shoplifting was as serious as violent assault'.

In a House of Commons debate, Warley MP John Spellar urged Policing Minister Michael Penning to support community policing and to 'reject the ridiculous suggestion from Tom Winsor' that police should ignore offences such as shoplifting.

Albion 'fan zone' on former pub site

A WEST Bromwich Albion 'fan zone' is a step closer to reality after planners approved the demolition of existing buildings.

Last month the club revealed plans to transform the derelict Hawthorns pub next to the Birmingham Road ground.

Approval has now been granted to knock down the Grade II listed building's 'west wing' to make way for the fan zone, which has been inspired by similar projects across the country, including one outside Liverpool's Anfield ground.

Parts of the building and land around it, including the current car park, will house the new facility. The pub closed in 2009 and was bought by the club a year later.

One in four children are overweight by age of four

FOUR in 10 Black Country youngsters are overweight when they leave primary school, new figures show.

And around a quarter are already overweight by the time they are just four years old.

Public Health England has released the shocking figures, for which Dudley and Wolverhampton tops the fat league in the West Midlands.

In the Black Country and Staffordshire, the figures tower above the national averages, particularly for 11-year-olds.

In England, around 33 per cent of children are overweight when they leave primary school, but in the Black Country this rises to around 40 per cent.

Obese

Dudley is joint-worst in the West Midlands for fat four-year-olds with 26.4 per cent deemed overweight or obese, the same as in Wolverhampton.

In Walsall this figure is 24.1 per cent and in Sandwell it drops to 21.8 per cent.

All four Black Country areas hover around 40 per cent for overweight 11-year-olds, with Wolverhampton the highest on 41.8 per cent but Dudley is the lowest on 38.6 per cent.

Jane DeVille-Almond is a senior health lecturer at the University of Wolverhampton and also chairs the British Obesity Society. She said it was no surprise that the Black Country was above

by Tim Spiers

the national average in the obesity league and explained that the figures reflected an ongoing trend.

"As with any industrialised community where people historically eat foods with a high percentage of fat it's difficult for people to change their dietary habits," she said.

"There's a clear link between poverty and deprivation — it's nothing new."

"In Wolverhampton it would be wonderful to show we can turn it around. We need to show the rest of the country we can do it."

"We've got a generation of kids who haven't watched their parents cook meals or families sit down to eat together. That needs to change."

Public Health England released the child obesity figures as it launched its Change4Life campaign to encourage parents to cut down on the amount of sugar their children eat or drink.

City rebuilds Paradise with £500m boost



Paradise Circus as it should look on its completion in 2025 with 10 new buildings as part of the £500 million scheme

WORK on the £500 million transformation of Paradise Circus in the heart of Birmingham city centre has got under way.

Road closures and diverted bus routes have been announced as part of the massive 10-year project, which will see the old library demolished and new offices, shops and walkways created.

The completed scheme, which is expected to create 15,000 jobs, will eventually see new public areas and up to 10 new buildings including a hotel with 250 bedrooms.

Work is expected to be completed in 2025.

Paradise Circus Limited Partnership — a joint venture of Birmingham City Council and BT Pension Scheme — is behind the development.

Junctions

The developers have announced a series of road closures as work takes place on changes to the Paradise Circus Queensway junctions with Broad Street, Parade/Sand Pits and Summer Row.

The closure began on Monday with buses on routes 82, 83, 87 and 89 diverted via Newhall Street and Newhall Hill. Meanwhile, from Saturday, there will be temporary closures at Summer Row. There will be restricted access for all vehicles between Lionel Street and Great Charles Street and all parking will be suspended.

Parade/Sand Pits will be closed to traffic leaving the city from January 17. Overnight closures will also be in place in Broad Street, Bridge Street and Holliday Street.

Sandwell residents face rent increases

COUNCIL tenants in Sandwell face rent rises under proposals by councillors as they look at continued investment plans for homes.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said it was an option being considered with a decision to be taken shortly.

Councillor Cooper said the authority was mindful of hitting cash-strapped families with rent rises of around one to two per cent.

But he said the council may have no option but to bring in a rise for next financial year to enable improvement plans for homes to continue.

Around £50 million is being spent by Sandwell Council to revamp 6,000 homes. Work has already been carried out on estates in Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and West Bromwich. Homes are being fitted with new kitchens and bathrooms, electrical rewiring and heating systems, new roofing and windows.

Contractors are now looking at renovating properties on estates around Smethwick and Wednesbury.

Councillor Cooper said: "We are still analysing all the figures, but if we do have to have any increases then they would be no higher than inflation so around one or two per cent."

"Ideally I would have a rent freeze but I'm not sure that we would be able to afford to do that with the costs of everything going up at the moment."

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Council consider a fifth tax freeze

COUNCIL tax in Sandwell will be frozen for the fifth year under proposals being drawn up to help cash-strapped families.

But council leader, Darren Cooper, said the move was hitting the authority as it tries to balance budgets in the midst of multi-million pound cuts.

Councillor Cooper said the authority knows people are struggling as the cost of living and energy bills rise while their wages do not. He said officials are doing all they can to protect frontline services in the face of cuts while not burdening families further.

The council has to make £63 million cuts by 2017.

Councillor Cooper said a motion for the council tax freeze will be discussed after plans are finalised at the end of this month. He said the move would allow them to take a grant offered by the Government designed to offset the loss incurred through not imposing tax increases.

Forces charity shops appeal for donations



Bethany Rollins and Michelle Haynes appeal for donations

A MILITARY bereavement charity, Forces Support is appealing for new donations. The West Midlands charity, which has a shop in Carters Green, West Bromwich is asking people having a clear-out after Christmas, or struggling to know what to do with unwanted Christmas presents to get in touch.

Shop manager Beth Rollins, said: “The past few months in our West Bromwich shop have been strangely quiet. “Normally around this time of year we have donations flooding in due to people having clear-outs before and after Christmas but this year it just has not happened.

“We have been really busy with customers coming in and buying items from the shops which is great but we are slowly running low on donations.

“We accept anything and everything in our shops, any donations are always welcome and right now we really need people to come forward with them.

The charity launched back in 2010, raising money through their shops and fundraisers to provide general maintenance work to homes of bereaving families.

MP backs call to open secret files

BLACK Country MP Tom Watson is leading calls for David Cameron to release confidential papers concerning relations between the Thatcher Government and India in the 1980s.

Last year Sikh leaders demanded an apology after Government papers released under the 30-year rule revealed an SAS officer had advised the Indian Government ahead of the massacre of hundreds of dissidents at the Golden Temple of Amritsar.

The Indian Government approached the UK for help following the occupation of the Golden Temple and the adviser had gone to India in February 1984, four months before the attack called Operation Bluestar.

However, four files have not yet been released. West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson said: “The Bluestar papers have been withheld. David Cameron said they’d be published. He should honour his pledge.”

New Year honours for the unsung Black Country heroes

Unsung heroes from across the Black Country are celebrating after been recognised in the New Year Honours List.

Volunteers are among those to have been honoured for their work, with Norris Hill, of Coseley, receiving an MBE for his work with the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd Ministry. Mr Hill has been involved with the group from the very beginning. The 78-year-old, who had a heart attack last year and has had to reduce his workload, also volunteers with Active Heart, the cardiac rehabilitation programme.

Also receiving an OBE is former West Bromwich Albion player Brendon Batson for services to football.

Jatinder Kumar Sharma, the principal of Walsall College – the first general further education

college to receive an Outstanding from Ofsted under the new inspection framework – has been awarded the OBE for services to Further Education.

MBEs have been awarded to Gordon Stuart Guild, aged 76, for his voluntary political service; Oldswinford’s Chris Fonteyn, aged 64, for services to the community in Stourbridge, including his work with the RNLI and the National Trust and Alan James Harvey, of Dudley, for political service.

Waqar Ahmed, from Dudley, was also awarded an MBE for his services to challenging extremism and empowering communities at Birmingham City Council. His work involves tackling extremism across the spectrum. He is employed by the Home Office.

Chris Westwood, 66, has also received an MBE. He set up The Chris Westwood Charity to help children in the Black Country with physical disabilities. Since 2003 it has provided more than £250,000 to help underprivileged families purchase mobility equipment.

Jessica Gripton, 83, who carried the Olympic torch through West Bromwich in 2012, receives the British Empire Medal for services to sport. Mrs Gripton, secretary at Old Hill Tennis Club after more than 30 years of organising matches, has dedicated her spare hours to encouraging young people to take up the sport and also played a key role in the campaign to rebuild its clubhouse after it burned down in 2000. The medal has also been awarded to John Harvey Deane, for services to the community in Dudley.

Firms sign up to create jobs

MORE than 20 firms have signed up to a £1million scheme to create jobs for up to 4,000 young people in Sandwell.

The Sandwell Council scheme will guarantee paid work or training for at least six months for young people.

So far 21 firms have joined the campaign, largely aimed those not in employment, education or training.

They include West Bromwich based firms Vector Print and East End Foods.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: “Any young person who wants a job will get one. We want to give them a helping hand.”

Under the scheme, called the Sandwell Guarantee, employers can offer jobs, apprenticeships, or internships, but they must be paid and new, not existing.

The council will split the cost of wages 50/50 for up to one year.

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Second time yobs attack the Queen's jubilee tree

VANDALS have attacked a tree planted to honour the Queen during her Diamond Jubilee for a second time.

First the beech tree was chopped down and the branches dumped in a park bin. Now the a plaque fitted to the remaining stump in Netherton Park has been destroyed.

Geoff Johnson, chairman of the Friends of Netherton Park, said he was 'disgusted' by the latest attack, which took place on New Year's Day — a week after tree had been cut down.

"I fixed the plaque to the stump in defiance but it has been completely destroyed," he said.

"The top has been ripped off. The plaque was attached to the stump with four or five bands of insulation tape so a great deal of effort has gone in to wrecking it.

"It's mindless vandalism. We're not aware of any vendetta against the park.

"From the plaque, it would have been clear that the tree had been planted for the Queen but whoever is responsible just doesn't seem to care," added Mr Johnson.

The inscription on the plaque said 'planted by the

by Heather Large

Friends of Netherton Park to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty'.

The first vandalism attack took place on Christmas Day — the day the Queen addressed the nation with a message about the importance of reconciliation.

Mr Johnson believed the attack had been premeditated because the tool was taken along to chop it down.

The Jubilee tree, which cost £250, had been planted in 2012 along with an Olympic tree to commemorate the London Games. Both had been targeted by vandals in the past. The Friends group has not decided whether the tree will be replaced due to concerns about possible repeat attacks.

When Harry met Sarah during the war



Harry and Sarah Clayton celebrate their platinum wedding anniversary at Nethercrest Residential Home

WHEN Harry and Sarah Clayton tied the knot as lovesick teenagers, the Second World War would go on for another nine months.

Their marriage may have come during Britain's darkest days, but the two could not have been happier.

Seventy years on, they remain as strong as ever as they celebrate their platinum anniversary.

"It was love at first sight," said Mrs Clayton, aged 88. It was the friendship of their parents that brought Harry and Sarah together.

Mr Clayton, who is 89, grew up in Pedmore Road, Woodside, Dudley, and went to the Holly Hall School. Mrs Clayton was originally from Ilkeston, Derbyshire.

They married in the town before setting up home in the Black Country, spending more than six decades in Dudley Wood.

Mrs Clayton said: "It's been a long and happy marriage." They have two daughters, Ethel and Jeanette.



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Art through eye of a needle



The micro-sculpture of Cinderella that is to go on show in Birmingham

TINY pieces of art which sit in the eyes of needles or on top of pinheads are to go on display in Birmingham.

The sculptures, created by Willard Wigan, who grew up in Wednesfield, are so minute they are only visible through a microscope.

Now Willard Wigan's micro masterpieces, which are crafted between heartbeats so as to minimise hand tremors, are set to go on display for two weeks.

The sculptor, who received an MBE for services to art in 2007 is launching the exhibition at the Library of Birmingham on Sunday, with part of the proceeds to support community ventures.

Mr Wigan, aged 57, started at the age of five when he began making houses for ants because he thought they needed somewhere to live.

Since then, the self-taught artist has perfected his craft, with owners of his works now including HRH Prince Charles, Sir Elton John, Sir Philip Green, Lord Bath, Mike Tyson and Simon Cowell.

His most recent piece, the Coronation Crown, was requested by HRH Queen Elizabeth II as part of her Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Tickets for the Through the Eye of a Needle exhibition can be booked at www.birmingham-box.co.uk or on 0121 2454455.

MORE than 160 people have been arrested for drink driving as part of a Christmas campaign.

West Midlands Police kicked off its festive drink and drug driving campaign on December 1, with 164 men and women pulled over and arrested in about four weeks.

As part of this year's campaign every person charged with drink or drug driving is named on the force website for a week, in a bid to raise awareness and make drivers stop and think before possibly breaking the law, and remind them that a conviction can carry a prison sentence between three months and 14 years.

It has seen more than 90 people charged to appear before the courts, accused of drink driving or failing to provide a sample for analysis.

The force said last year the web page was viewed more than 41,600 times.

Celebrating

Inspector Greg Jennings, who is leading the West Midlands annual road safety campaign, said: "Christmastime is always a peak period for us, with so many people out celebrating and perhaps behaving differently to normal.

"It is never acceptable to get behind the wheel when under the influence and last year proved successful in raising awareness of the risks posed by drink driving.

"Therefore we have decided to again name everyone who has been charged with drink or drug driving offences in a bid to make people think twice before acting recklessly.

"If convicted of offences it can cost people their livelihoods and seriously affect their day-to-day lives – and relationships – if they lose their licence.

"Seeing people's names there makes it all the more real and if one person is deterred from taking to the road after a night out on the tiles as a result of our messages then it is worthwhile as far as we are concerned."

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City Link staff get a lifeline from firm
DELIVERY firm APC Overnight held a recruitment open day for former City Link employees, offering 100 jobs to workers who were made redundant on Christmas Day.
At City Link's Wednesday depot, 47 staff have lost their jobs, with just four kept on.

The rival company announced on December 30 that it was making up to 100 jobs available to former City Link employees, following the collapse of the firm which left about 600 West Midlands staff jobless.

Emma Scott, APC Overnight's head of human resources, said: "There are some highly talented people out there who are unfortunately now having to look for new jobs."

More travellers take to the rails

THE number of train journeys taken in the West Midlands has risen for the 13th consecutive year.

Figures for 2013/14 show that there were 48.5 million journeys, an increase of two million on 2013/14.

Since 2000, when figures dropped as low as 22.8m, the number of rail journeys in the region has increased every year.

The latest hike comes despite rail fares going up by 3.1 per cent.

The increase of journeys is the third highest in the country. Rail journeys per population remains the highest in Merseyside with three million journeys per 100,000 people, followed by 1.8m journeys per 100,000 people in the West Midlands.

New Street Station work to begin major new phase

THE multi-million pound transformation of Birmingham's New Street station is entering its next stage with up to 3,000 workers expected to be on site during coming months.

The £600million project which includes the Grand Central Birmingham shopping centre is on track to be completed this autumn.

During the coming months, the number of workers on site will increase from around 1,000 to 3,000 by the summer.

The next stages of the redevelopment include work to fit the floor of the new station concourse and the glass fronts to the shops starting this month.

A massive atrium will overlook 12 platforms.

Light

In March, the demolition beneath the new atrium will be completed which will mean the whole of the new concourse will be open to natural light for the first time.

And in May, a major new train crew centre will be opening within the station, bringing in staff from temporary accommodation.

It will also see the removal of the first part of the main wall which separates the new and old station which will allow services to be connected and the building to begin to operate as one station.

The summer months will bring a hive of activity with the new concourse being fit-

by Heather Large

ted out with finishes to the waiting rooms, shops and public facilities.

The Navigation Street bridge will reopen to the public, the remainder of the station's main wall and other hoardings will be removed and the final finishes will be completed.

Project director Chris Montgomery, from Network Rail, said: "The station is really coming together and 2015 will be an exciting time for the project as we build up to the opening of both the station and Grand Central.

"To complete the final stages of the development, daily numbers working on site will increase from 1,000 to around 3,000.

"The numbers will continue to grow throughout the year; reaching a peak over the summer months when the retailers in the station and Grand Central are fitting out the shops and putting in their merchandise."

Traditional hunt is as popular ever



Members of Albrighton and Woodland Hunt at Hagley Hall for their tradition gathering that still attracts crowds

MORE than a thousand people turned out for the annual Boxing Day Albrighton and Woodland Hunt, near Halesowen.

More than 60 riders took part at the 350-acre grounds of Hagley Park.

Hunt secretary Julian Hill said: "It was a fantastic turnout. We usually hunt two to three times a week but the Boxing Day hunt is very special and it is always successful.

"We have lots of people come along to stretch their legs and shake off Christmas."

The Albrighton and Woodland Hunt covers parts of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands bordering Stourbridge, Dudley and Halesowen.

Despite a ban on fox hunting 10 years ago, hunts continue using 'trails', where hounds follow the scent of foxes without any foxes being harmed.

Last year the separate Albrighton Hunt and Albrighton Woodland Hunt reunited for the first time since they split into separate hunts in 1908.

In the past the hunt at Hagley Park has seen saboteurs and protesters.

Mr Hill said: "We don't notice as many problems these days, I think most people have accepted that it is a natural way of fox control. Much better than laying traps or doing it indiscriminately.

"It is good for the hounds and horses, and of course we don't know where the trails are and the hounds have to find them so it is very much like traditional hunting."

The club has around 300 members.

Put the pharmacy first for health tips

BLACK Country residents have been urged to think 'Pharmacy First' when it comes to dealing with minor ailments over the winter months.

The NHS says many illnesses can be dealt with by a simple visit to see a pharmacist, rather than having to make a doctor's appointment.

A campaign has been launched across the Black Country to remind residents that pharmacists can provide expert advice on a range of ailments, including coughs and colds, flu, headache and thrush.

Effective

Pharmacist Narinder Gogna, chairman of the Pharmacy Local Professional Network said: "For the majority of minor ailments, there is a quicker and more effective way to get assessed and to access treatment without the need to visit your doctor.

"Your local community pharmacy should be the first stop for advice for a range of conditions.

"This will help to free up valuable GP time which can be used to deal with more complex or serious health needs. Community pharmacies are an excellent source of advice."

"Antibiotics do not help fight winter ailments and your pharmacist can get you on the right course of treatment without a doctor's appointment."



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What's New

Jan - Mar 15

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LANGUAGES

FRENCH					
Beginners:	Thurs. 15 Jan.	18.00-19.00.	10 wks.	£55.20#	
Improvers:	Tues. 13 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#	
Inters:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#	
Advanced:	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#	
ITALIAN: BEGINNERS					
	Mon 12 Jan.	12.00-14.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#	
ARABIC					
	Mon 19 Jan.	17.00-18.30.	9 wks.	£47.25#	

ARTS AND CRAFTS

PAINTING AND DRAWING	suitable for all levels				
	Tues 13 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#	
	Wed 14 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	10 wks.	£65.00#	
	Thurs 15 Jan.	10.00-12.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#	
	Thurs 15 Jan.	13.30-15.30.	10 wks.	£65.00#	

WATERCOLOURS FOR BEGINNERS					
	Mon 26 Jan.	14.30-16.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#	

WIRE WRAPPED JEWELLERY MAKING					
	Mon 26 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#	
or	Tues 3 Mar.	12.00-14.00	3 wks.	£27.00#	

CONTINUING JEWELLERY MAKING					
	Tues 27 Jan.	12.00-14.00	3 wks.	£27.00#	
	Mon 23 Feb.	19.00-21.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#	

FOLK ART					
	Tues 13 Jan.	14.30-16.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#	
or	Mon 23 Feb.	19.00-21.00	3 wks.	£27.00#	

CREATIVE WRITING					
	Mon 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	5 wks.	£35.00#	

FACE PAINTING AND GLITTER TATTOOS					
Beginners:	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.00-21.00	6 wks	£41.00# (£13.75)	

HANDICRAFTS

UPHOLSTERY	suitable for all levels				
	Mon 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£68.00#	
	Tues 13 Jan.	12.00-14.00.	10 wks.	£68.00#	
	Wed 14 Jan.	12.00-14.00.	10 wks.	£68.00#	

PATCHWORK - Improvers					
	Mon 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00	10 wks.	£68.00#	
	Wed 14 Jan.	14.30-16.30	10 wks.	£68.00#	

PATCHWORK - Beginners					
	Tues 13 Jan.	14.30-16.30	10 wks.	£68.00#	

SEWING MADE SIMPLE					
	Thurs 15 Jan.	18.00-20.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#	

HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE					
Beginners	Tues 3 Feb.	09.30-11.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#	

HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER					
	Tues 13 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#	

RAG RUG MAKING					
	Tues 13 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#	

DANCE

CHANCE TO DANCE FIT—TASTER					
	Tues 13 Jan.	19.00-20.30	1 wk.	FREE	

CHANCE TO DANCE FIT					
	Tues 20 Jan.	19.00-20.00	9 wks.	£31.50#	
	Tues 20 Jan.	20.00-21.00	9 wks.	£31.50#	

BALLROOM & LATIN AMERICAN DANCING					
Beginners	Mon 12 Jan.	18.45-19.45	10 wks.	£36.60	
Improvers	Mon 12 Jan.	19.45-21.00	10 wks.	£54.90	

HEALTH AND FITNESS

PILATES					
Beginners:	Thurs 15 Jan.	18.00-19.00.	10 wks.	£35.00#	
Beg. @ Oakfield:	Fri 16 Jan.	10.00-11.00.	10 wks.	£37.80#	
Improvers:	Tues 13 Jan.	19.00-20.00.	9 wks.	£31.50	
Improvers:	Wed 14 Jan.	18.30-19.30.	10 wks.	£35.00	
Improvers:	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.05-20.05	10 wks.	£35.00	
Improvers:	Thurs 15 Jan.	20.10-21.10.	10 wks.	£35.00	

FITNESS YOGA					
	Tues 13 Jan.	20.05-21.05.	9 wks.	£31.50	

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:					
Beginners:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.00-19.45.	10 wks.	£31.50#	
Improvers:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.45-20.30.	10 wks.	£31.50#	
Inter/Adv	Mon. 12 Jan.	20.30-21.15.	10 wks.	£31.50#	

QUALIFICATIONS

DUDLEY INDUCTION TRAINING FOR POOLSIDE ASSISTANTS

	Fri 27 Mar.	09.00-12.00	3 hrs.	£19.20	
	Mon 15 Jun.	09.00-12.00	3 hrs.	£19.20	

LEVEL 2 AWARD IN FOOD SAFETY IN CATERING					
	Thurs 15 Jan.	17.30-21.00	2 wk.	£48.00^	

LEVEL 3 EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARD					
Start your journey to become an adult education tutor.					
	Thurs 29 Jan.	18.00-21.00	15 wks.	£290.00^	

EMERGENCY FIRST AID					
	Mon 19 Jan.	09.00-16.00	1 day.	£38.40	

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID					
	Fri 6 Feb.	09.00-13.00	1/2 day.	£25.60	

FIT FOR '15 TASTERS

FITNESS YOGA TASTER					
	Tues 6 Jan.	19.00-20.30.	1 wk.	FREE	

CORE BALL TASTER					
(MUST BRING OWN CORE BALL)					
	Wed 7 Jan.	19.00-20.30.	1 wk.	FREE	

PILATES TASTER					
	Thurs 8 Jan.	19.00-20.30.	1 wk.	FREE	

EXTREME ABS TASTER					
	Wed 14 Jan.	19.45-20.15.	1 wk.	FREE	

LITE4LIFE TASTER - Face your food demons					
	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	1 wk.	FREE	

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR					
Intermediates:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00	10 wks.	£65.00#	
Improvers:	Tues. 13 Jan.	19.00-21.00	10 wks.	£65.00#	
Beginners (1):	Thurs. 15 Jan.	19.00-20.00	10 wks.	£37.80#	
Beginners (2):	Thurs. 15 Jan.	20.00-21.00	10 wks.	£37.80#	

PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)					
Beginners (1)	Mon 12 Jan.	16.45-17.45	5 wks.	£45.75	
Beginners (2)	Mon 12 Jan.	17.45-18.45	5 wks.	£45.75	
Improvers	Thurs 15 Jan.	17.45-18.45	10 wks.	£50.00	

BASIC COMPUTER COURSES

COMPUTING : THE BASICS					
	Tues 27 Jan.	14.30-16.30	3wks.	£27.00#	
or	Tues 27 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#	

COMPUTING SKILLS: INTERNET+ E MAIL					
	Tues 24 Feb.	14.30-16.30	3 wks.	£27.00#	
or	Tues 24 Feb.	19.00-21.00	3 wks.	£27.00#	

COMPUTER COURSES

(Basic computer and internet skills are required)

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR ANDROID SMARTPHONE:					
	Mon 23 Feb.	12.00-14.00	5 wks.	£45.00#	

PHOTOSHOP - AN INTRODUCTION (1)					
	Mon 12 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	6 wks.	£54.00#	

PHOTOSHOP - AN INTRODUCTION (2)					
	Mon 23 Feb.	09.30-11.30.	5 wks.	£45.00#	

MASTERING YOUR ANDROID TABLET					
	Mon 12 Jan.	12.00-14.00	5 wks.	£45.00#	
or	Mon 23 Feb.	19.00-21.00	5 wks.	£45.00#	

BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY					
	Mon 19 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	4 wks.	£36.00#	
	Wed 21 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	4 wks.	£36.00#	

AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE FEAR AWAY					
Learn to master your Apple I-Pad					
	Tues 27 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	6 wks.	£54.00#	

CONTINUING FAMILY HISTORY					
	Mon 12th Jan.	14.30-16.30	5 wks.	£45.00#	

AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY					
	Mon 23 Feb.	14.30-16.30	5 wks.	£45.00#	



Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets () includes additional costs.

Course Dates: Courses are suspended during 16th -22nd Feb. 2015 unless stated otherwise

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers.

^ Accreditation fee included where you see this sign.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

FAMILY LEARNING

The price includes a place for one adult (aged over 19) and a child.

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SWIM	Children 18 mths-4yrs				
	Fri 16 Jan.	10.30-11.15.	9 wks.	£33.75#	
DAD AND CHILD—MOTHERS DAY WORKSHOP					
Ages 7-11	Mon 9 Mar.	15.45-17.15.	1.5hrs.	£5.00	
EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOP					
Ages 6-10	Mon 16 Mar.	15.45-17.15.	1.5hrs.	£5.00	

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Monday 5 Jan 2015 to Sunday 29 March 2015
Exc. Mon. 16 Feb. to Sun. 22 Feb. 2015

Cost:		11 wks	
First Steps, Pre Beg, Beg, Improver			£46.75
Intermediates 1, 2 and 3			£40.50
Rookie, W. Skills, L'saving, S & Swim			£50.85

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NEW—FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

(Additional costs for the workshops to be confirmed)

MAKE YOUR OWN DEVORE SCARVES					
	Fri 16 Jan.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00	
MINDFULNESS					
Mind-body approach to overcome negative thoughts and stress.					
	Fri 23 Jan.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00	
INTRODUCTION TO RAG RUG MAKING					
	Fri 30 Jan.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00	
MAKE AN OWL SEWING CADDY					
	Fri 13 Feb.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00	
HOW TO ALTER CLOTHES TO FIT					
	Fri 27 Feb.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00	
SILK PAINT A CUSHION					
	Fri 13 Mar.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00	

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

MAKE UP FOR BEGINNERS					
	Thurs 29 Jan.	14.30-16.30	3 wks.	£27.00#	
MEDITATION					
	Thurs 22 Jan.	19.00-20.30.	4 wks.	£27.00#	
FREE 2B ME TASTER					
Build your confidence, self esteem and positive thinking					
	Thurs 12 Feb.	19.00-21.00	1 wks.	FREE	
HAIRDRESSING FOR BEGINNERS					
	Thurs 26 Feb.	14.30-16.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#	

COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Weekly pay as you go sessions

ADULT SWIMMING:	Mon. 12.30-13.15, Tues. 19.00-20.00, Thurs.19.00-20.00. All £3.00				
AQUAFIT:	Wed. 12.30-13.15, Fri.12.30-13.15. £3.00. Wed.19.00-20.00, Sun. 9.00-10.00. £4.00				
FITNESS SWIM:	Mon. 18.00-18.45. £3.00				
for 10-19 yrs olds					

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Shakespeare spoke Brummie

Book Reviews

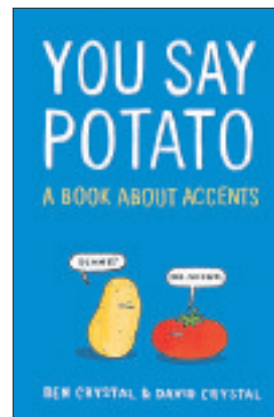
SOUTHERNERS mock the Brummie accent because they actually fear Birmingham as a rival to London. That's one of the theories in *You Say Potato: A Book About Accents* by father and son Ben and David Crystal.

In a chapter on the city, which thankfully also points out that Brummie and Black Country are different accents, they say that whilst the Birmingham accent often comes bottom of UK polls (alongside the Ulster brogue) it is popular with foreigners who find it friendly and melodic.

The authors put the blame for its dismal reputation at home on Beryl Reid for her slow-witted Brummie character Marlene in popular 1950s radio show *Educating Archie*. Jasper Carrott didn't help with his 1970s hit *Funky Moped* ("I'm gonna roide roide roide").

They suggest Brum needs TV shows or personalities to champion the accent, like The Beatles did for Liverpool or even newsreader Huw Edwards for South Wales. But they doubt Peaky Blinders will do the trick with its mish-mash of Irish, Northern and Midlands.

Many folks do not even realise that celebrated actress Julie Walters comes from the city. Smethwick to be exact, which being part of Sandwell and Staffordshire before that, is technically of the Black Country. This may be due to her early association with lots of Liverpool drama, or chameleon ability of the actor. But who is left to champion the accent? Frank Skinner and Adrian Chiles are both Black Country men, Liam Payne is a Wulfrunian. So that leaves... Ozzy Osbourne? Apart from the slurred accent of the Black Sabbath singer,



Linguists look at British accents

the best known Brummie voice is actor Timothy Spall, who played a character from the city in TV series *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* in the 1980s. He is from South London.

It's enough to have Shakespeare spinning in his grave, after all being a north Warwickshire lad, the Bard probably spoke with a kind of Brummie twang. Interestingly, actor Ben Crystal and his linguist father, David, both Shakespeare scholars, say the perceived 'posh' accent is a new invention that came after Shakespeare's times. Back then, when you had to speak French or Latin to impress, folks couldn't tell from your accent whether your Brummie home was a manor house or a hovel. *You Say Potato* is published in hardback by Macmillan, priced £12.99.

Other recommended recent titles: **Moriarty** by Anthony Horowitz (Orion Books, hardback, £19.99). This is a Sherlock Holmes novel with only a cameo from the Great Detective and named after his villainous nemesis ("the Napoleon of Crime"), who has apparently died with Holmes as they plummeted to their doom at the Reichenbach Falls. Foyle's War creator Horowitz, who did such a good job resurrecting Holmes and Watson in the House of Silk, this time gives Scotland Yard officers, so often derided by Holmes, a chance to show they've learned a thing or two from the famous consulting detective. They join an American Pinkerton agent in an investigation into the rise of a ruthless new crime boss. Horowitz does a good job of recreating the shadowy, smoggy world of late Victorian London and puts a twist in the tale. It's out in paperback in June.

Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die, compiled by Alex Werner (Ebury Press, hardback, £25). This handsomely illustrated celebration of Sherlock Holmes, his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and 19th Century London, has been created by academics to coincide with the Sherlock Holmes exhibition at the Museum of London until April 12 this year.

The Story of the Human Body by Daniel Lieberman (Penguin, paperback, £9.99). From an evolutionary point of view, a lot of what we do today, such as sitting down all day in front of a screen, even wearing shoes, can be seen as a recent and abnormal development. Harvard professor Lieberman argues that in the digital age our lives are out of sync with our cave men bodies. Ever sitting down and reading goes against our nature... mind you, I only found that out by sitting down and reading his book. The message seems to be, don't get too comfortable... it could kill you. **Leon Burakowski**



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US landmarks, including the giant domed Capitol building 'on the hill'. An optional guided city tour will bring to life some of these famous sights.

A visit is made to historic Philadelphia where the Independence Hall National Park is home to where the Declaration of Independence was prepared and, after the tolling of the Liberty Bell, first read to the nation in July 1776. Here an included guided city tour shows the colourful story of America's birth and the characters of the men, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.

Enjoy a full day in the incomparable Big Apple. Take in its landmark skyscrapers, the green acres of Central Park, famous Fifth Avenue stores, glittering Broadway plus bustling Times Square. Two optional excursions are available, a guided city tour plus a helicopter ride.

Spend a morning in Niagara Falls to experience the noise and permanent misty spray that can be seen for miles around. Perhaps take a helicopter flight for a birds eye view, or enjoy lunch in a restaurant overlooking the Falls (optional excursions).



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Two days departing June 28



PRICE FROM £95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth House and gardens
- Tour of the Peak District
- Evening entertainment
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Portsmouth from Sea to Sky

Three days departing April 25



PRICE FROM £209

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- Full day at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- Portsmouth harbour cruise
- Ride to the top of Spinnaker Tower
- Entrance to the submarine museum
- Visit to Winchester
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

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Three-day option also offered from £189.95

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTA Y5914)

Welsh Association of Male Voice Choirs at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing May 9



PRICE FROM £129

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer London hotel
- Circle seat for the concert (upgrades offered)
- Sightseeing tour or free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

The Crown Jewels and Thames Dinner Cruise

Two days departing May 17 and Sept 20



PRICE FROM £169

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Tower of London including the Crown Jewels exhibition
- Evening cruise on the River Thames including a hot two-course buffet dinner with a glass of wine
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Bletchley Park The Secrets of War

Two days departing May 23 and October 3



PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Bletchley Park
- Visit to Oxford
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Lake Garda Venice and Verona

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £639

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Lake Garda
- Guided sightseeing tours of Venice and Verona
- Tour of the Dolomites (with an optional cable car ride payable locally)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Hidden Portugal

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £559

- Return flights
- Seven nights four-star half-board accommodation
- Full day visit to Oporto and a port wine lodge
- Guided visits to Viana do Castelo and Valença do Minho
- Explore the Vinho Verde vineyards
- Journey through Peneda-Gerês National Park
- Optional excursions available to book
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Bruges by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £289

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Bruges
- Visit to a traditional chocolate maker
- Visit to Ypres and the First World War battlefields
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by RivieraTravel (ABTA V4744)



Gatehouse gig for Blair Dunlop

BLAIR Dunlop is coming to the Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford on January 12. The young Horizon award-winning guitarist has been making a big impression on the folk scene.

Dunlop is supported by rising star Kelly Oliver who had a fantastically busy time last year with the launch of her first album. The show starts 8pm. Tickets are £12.50.

The Woodman Folk Club which meets at The Marina, Kingswinford plays host to Dublin entertainer Tommy Dempsey on January 16. Bill Caddick is back on the circuit and at the Black Country club, after a six year gap, on January 23. Both shows start 8.30pm and tickets for both are £6 for members and add £1 for non-members.

Ruby tour days for punk veterans

PUNK rock veterans The Stranglers celebrate 40 years on the music scene with their Ruby anniversary spring tour including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy on March 14.

Still featuring original members Jean-Jacques Burnel, Jet Black and Dave Greenfield, plus Baz Warne who has been with the band for nearly 15 years, the March On tour will include special guests The Rezillos.

The Stranglers, originally fronted by Hugh Cornwell, had hits including Peaches, No More Heroes, 5 Minutes, Golden Brown, Strange Little Girl, Skin Deep and Duchess.

Go East for a touching comedy about family divided by culture

Head out on the highway

JULIAN Cope is described by his publishers Bloomsbury as a 'visionary rock musician and musicologist, hip archaeologist and one-time front man of the Teardrop Explodes'.

He is in concert at Birmingham Glee Club on Sunday, January 25.

Cope has released over 20 solo albums, six acclaimed books, including his autobiography Head-On and guide to the German underground rock scene Krautrock sampler. His recent first work of fiction, One Three One, has been dubbed a 'hooligan road novel'.

Tamworth-raised Cope enjoyed chart hits with The Teardrop Explodes in the 1980s, had a huge solo hit with World Shut Your Mouth and made a string of acclaimed albums. This year he releases a new 'Best Of' compilation covering 1999-2014, entitled Trip Advisor.



Rocker, poet, pagan, hip historian and novelist Julian Cope

THE critically-acclaimed revival of culture clash comedy East Is East is coming to Birmingham fresh from a run in London's West End.

Starring Absolutely Fabulous and Trolled star Jane Horrocks as the mother in an Anglo Pakistani family in 1970s Salford, Ayub Khan Din's poignant comedy-drama was previously best known for the 1999 film version, made three years after the play's stage debut.

The production marks the return to the stage for TV and film star Horrocks, who plays Ella Khan. She is fondly remembered for her role as Edina Monsoon's barny personal assistant Bubble in 'Ab Fab' and her movie performance alongside Michael Caine and Brenda Blethyn as the shy but remarkably talented LV in Little Voice.

The play also features the playwright/actor himself with Khan Din as Pakistani chip shop owner George Khan, who is determined to give his children a strict Muslim upbringing. The resulting household tension reaches breaking point as the long-suffering Ella gets caught in the crossfire between her husband and children.

Chilling

East Is East is staged at the city's New Alexandra Theatre for a five-day run from Tuesday to the following Saturday.

There are other panto alternatives in the region with chilling tale of terror The Frozen Scream at The Patrick Centre in Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday, January 17. Actor/writer Christopher Green and novelist Sarah Walters, who wrote Fingersmith and Tipping The Velvet, have bravely taken on the task of turning a supposedly cursed novel by 1920s writer CC Gilbert into a play.

Drawing upon Norse myths about dangerous supernatural powers lurking in the snow, this immersive production puts the audience alongside the cast — including Rula Lenska — at a decadent 1920s house party during a blizzard where matters take a macabre turn.

The ticket price includes a cocktail for



A scene from the hit revival of East Is East

sexually frank and darkly comic monologue Fleabag at Birmingham Rep's The Door venue from January 14 to 21. Written by Phoebe Waller-Bridge and performed by Maddie Rice, it's not for the easily shocked.

There is still time to catch the pantos before the festive season becomes a distant memory. Julian Clary unleashes his withering wit as Dandini in Cinderella at Wolverhampton Grand until January 18. Matt Slack, Gary Wilmot and Paul Zerdin form their own crazy gang in Birmingham Hippodrome's spectacular Jack and the Beanstalk until February 1. Roald Dahl fans can have a whizz-banging time at Birmingham Rep with The BFG until January 24.

Bang Bang they're coming here soon

THE pop scene in the West Midlands this year will start with a Bang Bang when Jessie J performs at a sold-out Birmingham O2 Academy on January 27.

She plays the city as part of her six-date January UK tour after storming back into the charts with her hit Bang Bang with Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj.

In October the release of her third studio album Sweet Album secured Jessie her third UK top five album and another MOBO Award for 'Best Female'.

Grande and Minaj also have gigs coming up in Birmingham, rapper Minaj is at the Barclaycard Arena on April 3 and Grande brings her Honeymoon tour to the same venue on June 9.

Woosey time for the Robin2

MATT Woosey will be bringing his blend of acoustic and blues music to the Robin2, Bilston on January 14. Woosey is touring on the back of his latest album Wildest Dreams. Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Woosey will be supported by Rebecca Downes.

Highly respected musician Phil Beer, also of Show of Hands fame, comes to the Red Lion Folk Club, King's Heath on January 14. Beer will be bringing the sounds of his new album Plays Guitar and Fiddle, Sings A Bit. The show starts at 7.45pm with the doors opening 7.15pm and tickets cost £13.

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CHOICE



Rita Ora

The Voice UK (BBC1, 7pm)
New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls who include a Scottish fireman, a soap star's daughter and one of the nation's best-loved children's characters.

9.20 Casualty. Connie is torn between spending time with Grace and dealing with a demanding patient. Zoe treats an old man who makes her realise life is too short.

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park and Chelsea v Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge. National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. 1.20 Film: Kevin and Perry Go Large. (2000) 2.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Live Athletics: Great Edinburgh Cross Country. Coverage from Holyrood Park. 2.35 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The opening men's semi-final. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.10 BBC News

6.30 Now You See It. New series. The best and worst of the magic world, featuring incredible performances from across the globe as well as tricks going wrong. Narrated by Mel Giedroyc.

7.00 The Voice UK. New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls, who include a Scottish fireman, a soap star's daughter and one of the nation's best-loved children's characters.

8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to try to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Kate Garraway.

9.20 Casualty. Connie is torn between spending time with Grace and dealing with a demanding patient. Zoe treats an old man who makes her realise life is too short.

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park and Chelsea v Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge. National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. 1.20 Film: Kevin and Perry Go Large. (2000) 2.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Apache Territory. (1958) 7.10 Film: Private's Progress. (1956) 8.45 Film: The Maggie. (1954) 10.15 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) 10.45 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) 11.15 British Isles: A Natural History. (R) 12.05 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.50 Michael Caine: Talking Pictures. 1.45 Film: The Ipcress File. (1965) Spy thriller, starring Michael Caine. 3.30 Escape to the Continent. (R) 4.30 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The ladies' final.

6.00 Flag It Trade Secrets. The experts offer advice on buying and selling military memorabilia and presenter Paul Martin explores the issues surrounding collecting antique firearms. (R)

6.30 Sacred Wonders of Britain. Neil Oliver travels to Iona in the Inner Hebrides to learn about St Columba's tough brand of monasticism, and finds out how the epic journey of St Cuthbert led to the writing of the Lindisfarne Gospels and the building of Durham Cathedral. At Canterbury Cathedral, Neil discovers how the gruesome murder of Thomas Becket spurred the building of its nave, and on Glastonbury Tor in Somerset, he investigates the story of the Holy Grail, the sacred cup of everlasting life. Last in the series. (R)

7.30 The Last Days of Anne Boleyn. Hilary Mantel, Philippa Gregory and David Starkey sift through the evidence to try to determine why Henry VIII's second wife was executed in 1536. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and his platoon are ordered to clear the area for a major army exercise – but encounter a problem in the shape of a steam engine blocking the path. (R)

9.00 Britain's Tudor Treasure: A Night at Hampton Court. Historians Lucy Worsley and David Starkey present a re-creation of the christening service of Henry VIII's son Edward on October 15, 1537.

10.00 Film: The Other Boleyn Girl. (2008) A bitter rivalry develops between two sisters as they compete for the affection of King Henry VIII. Historical drama, starring Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana.

11.50 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.40 Film: Lady Caroline Lamb. (1972)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Signed Stories: Share a Story. 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. 8.30 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.35 Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.15 ITV News. Weather. 11.25 Ejector Seat. (R) 12.25 Britain's Best Back Gardens. (R) 1.25 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 2.25 Tipping Point. (R) 3.25 Diversity Live. (R) 4.25 Regional Programme: Weather. 4.35 ITV News: Weather. 4.55 Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep.

7.00 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. New series. The larger-than-life comic steps into the shoes of former hosts Leslie Crowther, Matthew Kelly and Cat Deley to front this latest reincarnation of the show in which five members of the public are transformed into their singing heroes to perform an iconic hit to an appreciative studio audience. The winner of each round goes forward to the final, with the chance to pick up the series' coveted award.

8.05 Take Me Out. Chocolate factory worker Peter, city slicker Liam, oil rig engineer Colin and gymnast Chris vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date – but first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and also reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.

9.20 Film: Skyfall. (2012) James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and exposed the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes.

11.05 ITV News: Weather.

11.20 Film: Skyfall. (2012) Concluded. 12.20 Off Their Rockers. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.35 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.00 Cycling: Revolution Series. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 The King of Queens. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 Frasier. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 Speed with Guy Martin. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Warwick and Kempton Park. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 5.30 The Simpsons. (R)

6.00 The Simpsons. In another trio of horror tales, Lisa discovers Bart's demented twin in the attic and creates an alternative world in a margarine tub – before becoming its god. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke meets Russell Edwards and Nadia Smith, who are trying to build a family home out of a derelict 18th-century farmhouse in the Shropshire countryside. (R)

8.00 Tsunami: 10 Years On. Documentary studying the aftermath of the Boxing Day 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, a decade after it took place. Featuring archive footage and interviews with experts and eyewitnesses. First shown on More4.

9.00 Film: Bad Teacher. (2011) Cynical, hard-drinking teacher Elizabeth Halsey hates her job and the kids in her class, and hopes to escape her daily grind by landing a rich husband. A wealthy substitute seems like a suitable candidate, but she has a rival for his attention in a squeaky-clean colleague. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake, Jason Segel and Lily Punch.

10.50 Sarah Milligan: Chatroom Live. Stand-up show recorded at London's Bloomsbury Theatre in 2011, in which the comedienne shares humorous insights into her life, including the perils of living alone. (R)

11.50 Film: Cocktail. (1988) An ambitious bartender with dreams of running his own establishment is torn between the waitress he loves and a wealthy older woman. Drama, starring Tom Cruise and Bryan Brown.

1.50 Queer as Pop: From the Gay Scene to the Mainstream. (R) 2.45 Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.25 Access. 10.30 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 11.25 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.20 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.20 Film: Columbo: The Murder of a Rock Star. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Little Richard. 3.15 Film: Columbo: Great Deceptions. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 5.15 Deedliest Storms. (R)

6.10 Scariest Weather. The most violent and dangerous weather ever caught on camera, including tornadoes and dust storms in America, wildfires in Russia and the tsunami that hit Japan in March 2011. Part of Storm Night. (R)

7.00 Worst Weather Ever? Documentary examining the current state of extreme weather, looking at the effect of the increase in the Earth's temperature and exploring what will happen if it continues to rise. Part of Storm Night. (R)

7.55 Secrets of the Egyptian Pyramids. Dallas Campbell presents a programme in which a team of investigators attempt to unlock the secrets of some of the world's greatest engineering achievements. In the first episode, scientists and historians led by Steve Burrows, the engineer responsible for the Bird's Nest Olympic stadium in Beijing, travel to Egypt to use 3D laser scanners to digitally recreate virtual replicas of four different ancient pyramids. Through these, they tell the story of how builders 5,000 years ago refined the structure by learning from their mistakes and look at why the pharaohs came to be buried in them. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous residents' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to their housemates' quirks and foibles while also coping with the day-to-day complications of life inside the house.

10.00 Film: Mr & Mrs Smith. (2005) Married assassins are hired to kill each other – a situation that restores some much-needed excitement to their relationship. Comic adventure, with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You 8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Film: Avengers Assemble (2012) 11.15 Family Guy 1.30 Crims 2.00 People Just Do Nothing 4.00 Close

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano 8.00 Everyday Miracles: The Genius of Sofas, Stockings and Scanners 9.00 Spiral 10.50 Rock 'n' Roll Britannia 11.50 Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll 1.55 Top of the Pops: 1980 2.25 Lost Land of the Volcano 3.25 Sounds of the Sixties 3.55 Close

ITV2

12.05 The Cube 1.10 Film: Richie Rich (1994) 3.05 You've Been Framed! 4.05 You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! 5.05 You've Been Framed! 5.35 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) 7.20 Film: Evan Almighty (2007) 9.20 Take Me Out – The Gossip 10.05 Blue Go Mad in Ibiza 11.05 Film: Ocean's Eleven (2001) 1.30 Mom 1.50 Fake Reaction 2.25 Life's Funniest Moments 2.50 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.30 Lewis 1.35 Inspector Morse 3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.55 Rosemary & Thyme 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Midsomer Murders 10.00 Lewis 12.00 Inspector Morse 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

11.55 Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) 1.40 Kojak 4.35 Storage Wars 5.00 Storage Wars: Texas 6.00 Live From Formula E Championship. The Buenos Aires ePrix. 8.30 Storage Wars 9.00 Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) 11.20 Film: Troy (2004) 2.25 Highway Patrol 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 4.30 Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. 12.30 Rude (ish) Tube 1.30 Troy 2.00 The Big Bang Theory 4.00 How I Met Your Mother 5.00 Rude (ish) Tube 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 The 100 9.00 Film: Beverly Hills Cop (1984) 11.05 The Big Bang Theory 12.00 The Inbetweeners 1.00 How I Met Your Mother 2.00 The Ricky Gervais Show 3.25 Don't Trust the B** in Apartment 23 4.10 Charmed**

Film4

11.00 Cat Ballou (1965) 1.00 Taxi (2004) 2.55 Battle of the Sexes (1993) 4.40 Cleverley (1995) 6.35 Beaches (1988) 9.00 Ghost (1990) 11.30 The Bay (2012) 1.15 Scanners (1981) 3.30 Close



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MARCH	
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CHOICE



David Jason

Still Open All Hours (BBC1, 7.30pm)
Although Arkwright may no longer be manning the unpredictable till, not much else has changed in his famous corner shop. So if some viewers are still claiming that in reality, it would have been taken over by a chain, turned into a tanning parlour or simply closed down all together, they'll be able to sympathise with the snobbish Mrs Dawlish, who this week struggles to believe that such a quaint little place still exists. Luckily, Granville thinks there may be a way to make money out of her incredulity. However, that doesn't mean he's afraid to move with the times – the shopkeeper also has ambitions to open a coffee shop, which is causing quite a stir in the neighbourhood. Meanwhile, Eric, has been landed with a new job.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Flog It! (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.35** Songs of Praise. **4.10** Film: Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. **5.30** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.00** **Celebrity Mastermind.** Gemma Cairney, Anthony Ogogo, Tina Malone and Dominic Laurie answer questions on subjects including the Spice Girls, the London Underground and Barbra Streisand. **6.30** **Countryfile.** People and places hit by the 2014 floods in Somerset, meeting the farmer whose livelihood ended up underwater and finding out how it affected the local birdlife, including Weather for the Week Ahead. **7.30** **Still Open All Hours.** Granville's plans to open a coffee shop cause a stir in the neighbourhood, and snobbish local Mrs Dawlish pays a visit, surprised that such old-fashioned corner shops still exist. David Jason stars. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** The team returns to Waltham Forest Town Hall in east London, where items include an Art Deco pendant with a hint of ancient Egypt and a purse that saved a German soldier's life. **9.00** **Last Tango in Halifax.** Celia tries to improve her relationship with Alan and accepts Gary into her life. Despite their tense relationship, she stands by Caroline when some devastating news is received. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman presents action from the latest Premier League fixtures, which were Arsenal v Stoke City at the Emirates Stadium and Manchester United v Southampton at Old Trafford. **11.35** **The Apprentice USA.** Surviving candidates Meat Loaf, Marlee Matlin, Dionne Warwick and others are tasked to create a children's book and perform its contents to a group of youngsters. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.15 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Food & Drink. (R) **12.20** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.50** Live Snooker: The Masters. Mark Selby v Shaun Murphy. **5.00** Ski Sunday. **5.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Colin Murray presents coverage of the men's final, as the tournament concludes at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, and the successor to Stephen Bunting is crowned. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **8.00** **Kate Humble – Into the Volcano.** Part two of two. Kate joins a team of geologists on another research expedition in the southern Pacific as they head to the island of Ambrym in the Vanuatu archipelago. There she undertakes an arduous journey to the volcanic cone Marum – which contains one of only five lava lakes on the planet – abseiling right to its heart to discover if another major eruption may be imminent. Along the way she discovers how the volcano has shaped the customs and traditions of the islanders and discovers what it really means to live each day on its slopes. **9.00** **Racing Legends: John Surtees.** High-profile car enthusiasts pay tribute to British motorsport greats and re-enact one of their most iconic races. Last in the series. **10.00** **QI XL.** Extended edition. Question master Stephen Fry continues the comedy quiz's exploration of subjects beginning with the letter L as he asks a range of fiendish questions on the multisized worlds of the little and the large. Joining regular panellist Alan Davies are Pointless co-host Richard Osman and stand-ups Lucy Porter and Phill Jupitus, who are all hoping they don't fall into the QI elves' traps and set off the klaxon. **10.45** **Billionaire's Paradise: Inside Necker Island.** Documentary going behind the scenes at Richard Branson's Necker Island, one of the world's most exclusive holiday destinations where guests can pay more than £40,000 a night. (R) **11.45** **Snooker: The Masters.** Stuart Bingham v Marco Fu. **12.35** Snooker Extra.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadline Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Film: Columbus: Butterfly in Shades of Grey. (1993) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.30** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.30** Catchphrase. (R) **2.15** Midsummer Murders. (R) **4.15** Film: Diamonds Are Forever. (1971) James Bond spy adventure, starring Sean Connery. **6.35** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.45** **ITV News:** Weather. **7.00** **All Star Family Misfortunes.** Vernon Kay reviews clangers and bloopers from the long-running quiz show, together with some of the more silly answers proposed by its celebrity participants. **8.00** **Foyle's War.** The son of a high-profile Jewish businessman is attacked in the grounds of a university, leaving Foyle to consider the possibility that the attack was racially motivated. Meanwhile, in London, tensions mount as charismatic right-wing leader Guy Spencer is released from prison. But is he being set up to take the spotlight off a dangerous espionage operation involving MI6? Elsewhere, Sam becomes acutely aware of the impact of the war on Adam's constituents as she encounters a young boy suffering from whooping cough. Michael Kitchen stars in the 1940s-set crime drama, with Honeysuckle Weeks and Daniel Weyman. **10.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.15** **The Kyle Files.** Jeremy Kyle tackles high-profile issues that affect people's lives across Britain. (R) **10.45** **The Undriveables.** Some of Britain's worst learner drivers are paired with leading instructors in an attempt to finally pass their test. An Essex woman tackles London's hectic roads. (R) **11.15** **Premiership Rugby Union.** Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures. **12.10** The Store.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** Film: Astro Boy. (2009) Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **3.15** Film: The Princess Diaries. (2001) Family comedy, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **6.00** **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Sara Damergi searches the Kissimmee area of Florida to find a holiday home suitable for mother-and-daughter duo Jane and Bethan Thomas, who wish to buy a place close by the sunshine state's theme parks that they adore so much. Within their £70,000 budget, the options include a two-bedroom apartment and a three-bedroom lakeside house that offers a promising rental return. **7.00** **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** The property expert heads to Bath to assist Robert and Angela, who have had their home on the market for five years and Sam and Maria, who have been trying to sell for 10 months. **8.00** **The Hotel.** Mark makes plans to stage a Scottish-themed event so a coachload of guests will stay put at the Cavendish and not be tempted to take their money elsewhere. **9.00** **Walking the Nile.** Levison Wood meets members of the Mundari tribe, who have set up a cattle camp on an island in the middle of the River Nile and lead an isolated yet tranquil existence. **10.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the irreverent quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests from the worlds of comedy and entertainment. (R) **11.05** Film: **Machine Gun Preacher.** (2011) Premiere. A former gang member seeks to protect children who have been orphaned during a civil war in east Africa. Fact-based drama, starring Gerard Butler and Michelle Monaghan. **1.30** The Last Leg. (R) **2.25** Film: The History of Mr Polly. (1949) **4.05** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **5.00** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.05** SuperScrippers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.10** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.25** LazyTown. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Monkey Life. (R) **11.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.00** Film: Mrs Caldicott's Cabbage War. (2003) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **3.10** Film: The Pursuit of Happyness. (2006) Fact-based drama, starring Will Smith. **5.30** Film: Aladdin. (1992) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Robin Williams. **7.10** **5 News Weekend.** **7.15** Film: **Jackie Chan's The Medallion.** (2003) An evil crime lord tries to capture a boy who has supernatural powers, but a team of international police officers is on his trail. One of the cops is killed saving the child, who resurrects him using a magical medallion. The revived detective now has superhuman abilities, which he uses to protect the youngster. Comedy adventure, with Jackie Chan, Lee Evans, Julian Sands, Claire Forlani and John Rhys-Davies. Edited for violence. **9.00** **Celebrity Big Brother.** A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room. **10.00** Film: **A Lonely Place to Die.** (2011) Premiere. Five mountaineers rescue a Serbian girl held captive in the Scottish Highlands, only to be attacked by her kidnappers. Thriller, starring Melissa George and Ed Speleers. **11.55** **Winter Road Rescue.** Documentary following the work of snowplough drivers, RAC patrols and heavy-recovery specialists toiling to ensure the UK's roads are kept clear. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.25** The Voice UK **9.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Crims **11.15** Family Guy **12.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **12.30** Russell Howard's Good News **1.00** Sweat the Small Stuff

BBC Four
7.00 Architects of the Divine: The First Gothic Age **8.00** Queen Victoria's Letters: A Monarch Unveiled **9.00** Dan Cruickshank and the Family That Built Gothic Britain **10.00** The Sky at Night: The Billion Pixel Camera **10.30** Secrets of the Universe: Great Scientists in Their Own Words **11.30** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **12.30** Heavy Metal Britannia **2.00** Heavy Metal Britannia at the BBC

ITV2
11.35 Take Me Out **12.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.35** You've Been Framed! **2.05** Film: Valiant (2005) **3.35** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **5.30** Film: King Kong (2005) **9.00** Film: Shaun of the Dead (2004) **11.05** Film: Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **1.05** Mom **1.30** Fake Reaction **2.10** The Hot Desk: Neon Jungle **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.40 Wycliffe **12.55** Rosemary & Thyme **1.55** Film: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) **3.55** Inspector Morse **5.55** Lewis **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst **10.00** Northern Lights **11.00** Wycliffe **12.10** Film: Interview with the Vampire (1994)

ITV4
11.00 FIA Formula E Championship **12.00** Pawn Stars **2.15** Alias Smith and Jones **3.15** Film: Destry (1954) **5.20** Film: Red River (1948) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Apocalypse Now (1979) **12.05** Hell on Wheels

E4
12.30 Revenge **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **5.00** The 100 **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory **11.25** The Interveners **12.30** Rude Tube **1.35** Rules of Engagement **2.30** Charmed **3.10** The Cleveland Show **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Against the Wind (1948) **1.00** Just Wright (2010) **3.05** Flash Gordon (1980) **5.20** Biggles (1986) **7.15** Fast Girls (2012) **9.00** Unknown (2011) **11.15** Wrong Turn at Tahoe (2009)

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MONDAY
Nora Roberts' High Noon, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When a hostage negotiator is attacked in a police station, suspicion falls on an officer whose incompetence she had exposed. However, when the campaign of intimidation continues, she discovers she is being targeted by a deranged criminal who holds her responsible for a tragedy in his past. Crime thriller, with Emilie de Ravin and Patrick Sabongui. (2009)

TUESDAY
Primeval, BBC1, 12.05am
Two American reporters and a cameraman travel to Africa in search of a near-mythical giant crocodile that has savaged hundreds to death. However, they not only have a battle surviving encounters with the man-eating predator, but also end up in the throes of a long-standing civil war involving a local warlord who does not take kindly to intruders on his territory. Thriller, starring Dominic Purcell and Orlando Jones. (2007)



Couples Retreat, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
Keeping Up with the Steins, BBC1, 11.35pm
The Fiedler and Stein families embark on a game of one-upmanship as they try to outdo each other in their lavish preparations for their 13-year-old sons' forthcoming bar mitzvah parties. Meanwhile, one of the boys uses the occasion to plan a surprise reunion between his dad and estranged grandfather. Comedy drama, starring Daryl Sabara. (2006)

FRIDAY
Couples Retreat, ITV, 10.40pm
A couple on the brink of divorce sign up for relationship therapy on a tropical island, but find they can save money if they persuade their friends to join them. Three more couples go along for the holiday, thinking they do not need any help – but the unconventional treatment soon exposes cracks in their relationships. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Jason Bateman. (2009)

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan, Channel 4, 12.30am
A Kazakhstani journalist is sent to the United States to learn about the country and its customs. However, when the inquisitive reporter stumbles across an episode of Baywatch featuring Pamela Anderson, he becomes convinced she is his future bride and embarks on a reckless mission to track her down. Spoof documentary, starring Sacha Baron Cohen. (2006)

Looking to make their dreams come true

George Clarke likes to keep himself busy – so much so that he's often juggling various TV projects as well as running his own architectural firm.

Last March, he told us he was "making series three of Amazing Spaces. I'm making series four of Amazing Spaces at the same time. I'm making series five of Restoration Man, alongside series six of Restoration Man."

Blimey!

Well, at least his fans know that if they miss one instalment, they won't have long to wait until the next.

Amazing Spaces ended its run just before Christmas, and now it's the turn of the aforementioned series five of Restoration Man to take centre stage. And, despite the nation's continuing economic issues, it seems that people are still more than willing to invest their hard-earned savings in bricks and mortar – even if sometimes there isn't much of either when they take on a building.

"I think they're amazing," says George of those who take part in the programme. "These are people who are generally jumping into the unknown, taking on grade one or grade two listed buildings, many that have been abandoned for years."

"They do use a phrase sometimes that does make me laugh but is true, and they say, 'If I wasn't so naive, I wouldn't have taken on the project in the first place! But the upside is that they're not paying a king's ransom for these buildings.'"

He has a sound piece of advice for all involved, although some don't give it much heed: "Get the professionals around you that can really help you and advise you in the areas you're lacking. As you know from watching the programmes, people do make some really major mistakes where they think they can design it themselves, but they can't and they get it wrong."

"Get a project manager involved if you've never done it before. A project manager is somebody who's seen as an investment, not a cost. They will save you money over the course of the build."

The second episode of the current

run sees George travel to Great Braxted in Essex, where Jim and Bee Goody want to turn a derelict Victorian school into their dream home in the country.

Sadly, they haven't been able to sell their existing house to help them fund the project, so have taken on a bridging loan, but on the upside, George is thrilled to hear that some of the original features they initially felt would hamper their creation of the perfect abode have now become some of their favourite aspects.

"I'm passionate about architecture and all over the country there are beautiful buildings with real soul that need to be saved," explains George. "I'm not interested in creating living museums. The challenge is to give these historic buildings a modern twist and drag them into the 21st century."

"What I loved about this was that these people have such a passion for Britain's architectural history. They just wanted to save the buildings for future generations."

"I love that, I find it really quite humbling."



George Clarke (left) in The Restoration Man, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Broadchurch
ITV, 9pm
In 2013, after the first airing of multi-award-winning drama Broadchurch, viewers cancelled all Monday evening plans for the foreseeable, after David Tennant and Olivia Colman and co gave out such sterling performances, we simply couldn't think of anything else. Conversations, whether around the water cooler at work, or down the pub of a weekend, started and ended with 'who do we think really killed Danny Latimer?' It's safe to say, we were a nation addicted – to a television programme! But such is the calibre of writer Chris Chibnell's work. However, as we'd have expected, the focus of this second series has been shrouded in secrecy, and Chibnell explained: 'I knew, from the start, that there was another story to tell in the world of Broadchurch; so much so that I'd pitched it to Peter Fincham, Director of Television at ITV, in our very first meeting when he greenlit the first series of the show.' Tonight, the drama continues, as DI Alec Hardy and DS Ellie Miller continue their investigative work, the previous case never far from their minds.

TUESDAY
Suspects
Channel 5, 10pm
New series. The return of the crime drama following

the work of three detectives, in which the actors devise their own dialogue based on a detailed plot description. DI Martha Bellamy welcomes back DS Jack Weston after a period of enforced leave following the paedophile investigation, warning him this is his final chance. Jack and DC Charlie Steele investigate when a popular art teacher is found with life-threatening head injuries at a sixth-form college, with suspicions falling on handyman Ben Peel and head Rory O'Hanlon.

WEDNESDAY
Angry, White and Proud
Channel 4, 10pm
There's some hard-hitting stuff in this documentary, which explores how far-right splinter groups are on the rise. It's an eye-opener for director Jamie Roberts, who in his first full-length documentary, gets to know members of the far right – those who call themselves 'patriots', but some of whom admit to being racist and hating Muslims. Jamie and his camera

follow all aspects of their lives, from violent street protests and police arrests, to the ups and downs of their domestic lives. Colin is a former nightclub DJ, but these days, puts all his efforts into his group The South London Infidels, and has such strong negative views on Islam that in the past, it's cost him his job. We also meet Paul, a former key figure in the English Defence League who now heads up the South East Alliance, and a man who joined the far-right cause following the tragic death of his son.

THURSDAY
Cyberbully
Channel 4, 9pm
It's been claimed that 69 per cent of young people in the UK have experienced some form of cyber bullying. Some cynics, especially those who are old enough to remember a time before social

media, may think that the answer is to log off the internet, but as this one-off drama shows us, it's not always that easy. Cyberbully stars Game of Thrones actress Maisie Williams as Casey Jacobs, a teenage girl who like many others her age is in constant digital communication with her friends, whether it's by text, social media or video chats. However, she's about to be faced with the darker side of effectively living her life online when she's targeted by an anonymous hacker. Her ordeal plays out in real time, and while what happens may seem extreme, it's certainly not beyond the realms of possibility or moving into Black Mirror's 'what if?' territory – worryingly, the events depicted have been inspired by real-life cases.

FRIDAY
Race to the Pole
Channel 5, 7pm
Richard Parks takes part in a gruelling, mega-distance running event called the Jungle Ultra. In intense heat over five days, he has to cover a total of 230km across the brutal and unforgiving terrain of the Peruvian Amazon, with the course taking him from the cooler cloud forest down into the Amazon basin and through the jungle itself in Manu National Park. In addition, Richard has to carry all his own provisions with him, including food and safety and camping gear.



Suspects, Tuesday, Channel 5, 10pm

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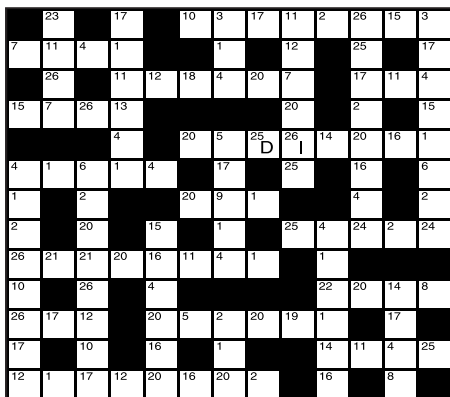
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	L	M	E	F	O	V	A	D	K	H	W	X	P
14	Y	B	C	T	S	Z	J	Q	R	U	N	G	I

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

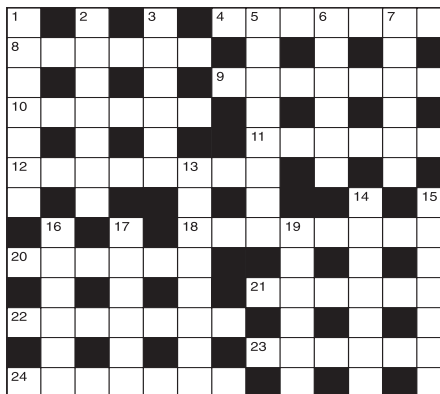
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Believes the bank balances (7)
- 8 & 9Ac.** The nervous exuberance of beastly apparitions! (6,7)
- See 8 Across
- They're taken by priest and private (6)
- Did some pillaging - dismissed (6)
- Photograph one quick on the draw (8)
- Try out under-ground scientific equipment (4-4)
- Selected group of pupils upsets the master (6)
- Has wet dressing changed (6)
- Tunic for a knight, we hear (7)
- Ready to put in a word for the actor (6)
- Provide new cover as compensation (7)

Down

- Revel and merry-go-round almost finished (7)
- A thousand ladies upset by faulty distribution (7)
- The children and I in the farm buildings (6)
- It becomes involved with posers and provides smart answers (8)
- To do a job on the board is straightforward (6)
- A torn piece of material for the lace-worker (6)
- You'll find them also upset by cooked food (3,5)
- Where one may declare routine practices (7)
- Dislikes being told to go in the reserves (7)
- Accurately use a pitch-fork! (6)
- Sportsman who may well be foiled (6)
- In the direction of information sign at the hospital? (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Hamlet (7)
- Cordial (6)
- Odd (7)
- Bad (6)
- Wave (6)
- Effort (8)
- Disaster (8)
- Diversion (6)
- Jail (6)
- Exhibit (7)
- Self-possession (6)
- Distended (7)

Down

- Curtail (7)
- Case of cutlery (7)
- Road (6)
- Inside (8)
- Apt (6)
- Silenced (6)
- Grow (8)
- Errand (7)
- Before long (2,3,2)
- Critique (6)
- Force (6)
- Sudden (6)

Sudoku

				9		8	6	
	7		1	4				
2	3			7	4	1		
	1			2				
		4		6		5		1
		2	8				3	
	9	8	7				5	3
			9		5		8	
5	6	1		3				

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	6	9	3	5	8	4	7	2
3	2	8	9	7	4	1	6	5
7	4	5	6	2	1	9	8	3
8	7	3	4	1	2	6	5	9
2	9	6	7	3	5	8	4	1
4	5	1	8	6	9	2	3	7
9	3	4	1	8	7	5	2	6
5	8	7	2	9	6	3	1	4
6	1	2	5	4	3	7	9	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Countenances; 9 Ten; 10 Automatic; 11 Aides; 13 Trestle; 14 Gas-bag; 16 Assign; 18 Tripper; 19 Scene; 20 Absorbing; 21 Fit; 22 Clandestine. Down: 2 Own; 3 Nears; 4 Estate; 5 Aimless; 6 Cut it fine; 7 Straightway; 8 Screen tests; 12 Dismissal; 15 Aspirin; 17 Praise; 19 Sight; 21 Fan. QUICK - Across: 1 Injudicious; 9 Nip; 10 Fascinate; 11 Erect; 13 Diarist; 14 Tweeds; 16 Devout; 18 Liaison; 19 Onset; 20 Tailoring; 21 Too; 22 Influential. Down: 2 Nap; 3 Unfit; 4 Inside; 5 Imitate; 6 Unanimous; 7 Infertility; 8 Restitution; 12 Election; 15 Despoli; 17 Entire; 19 Ought; 21 Tea.

Quiz

- Who presents TV's Question Time?
- By what name is a kangaroo's young commonly known?
- What is the largest city in Switzerland?
- Who wrote the novel Cat's Cradle in 1963?
- Which pop star married film director Guy Ritchie in 2000?
- Which fish's young include alevins and smolts?
- By which first name is former decathlete Francis Morgan Thompson better known?
- Of which building does the White Tower of c.1079 form a part?
- Whose first novel was A Parliamentary Affair?
- Which record company was founded in Detroit by Berry Gordy Jnr?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Gerrymandering; 2 Bing Crosby; 3 India; 4 Beetle; 5 Margarine; 6 Pacific; 7 Arthur C. Clarke; 8 Nutmeg; 9 Fred Astaire; 10 Juggernaut.

Niner: WORKMATES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

925 gives a female animal,
1344 gives a male animal,
157658 gives a rodent.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Ford transit picks up award

By David Banner

The all-new Ford Transit Courier has received the top accolade at this year's What Van? Awards by winning Van of the Year 2015.

Ford continued its winning streak with the Transit Courier also picking up Small Van of the Year, the Transit Connect topping the Light Van category and Ranger collecting Pick-up of the Year.

The Ford Fiesta Van was also highly commended in its category, and the Transit Custom likewise in the Medium Van category.

"Ford's revolution of its light commercial line-up has seen it offer the most comprehensive range of high-quality vehicles in the marketplace, in terms of visual appeal, driver appeal, innovation, technology and efficiency," said What Van? editor, Paul Barker.

"This massive investment has culminated with our Van of the Year Transit Courier offering a massive step forward in the small van segment, succeeding our only ever twice-Van of the Year winner the Transit Custom, while the excellent new Transit Connect is also a worthy winner of the Light Van category."

The awards come at the end of a two-year overhaul of the entire Ford Transit range which included the addition this year of What Van's? Van of the Year: the Transit Courier.

Dagenham-built engine achieves 76.3mpg and 97g/km CO2 emissions,

and the multi-award-winning 1.0-litre EcoBoost offers 54.3mpg and 119g/km CO2 – 15 per cent better than its closest rival.

Additionally, the stylish all-new Ford Transit Courier offers 10 per cent more load volume than its direct competitors with 2.3m3 (SAE) behind the bulkhead, as well as a longer load length at floor level, and greater access width through the sliding side doors.

Sales of the Ford Transit continue to dominate, with both Transit and Transit Custom leading their segments with 26.6 per cent and 33 per cent market share YTD respectively.

The entire Ford commercial vehicle range will now be available from Ford's designated commercial dealer network, called Transit Centres, which will be rolled out across the country next year.

Terry Rayner, director, Transit Centres, Ford of Britain said: "I am delighted to receive the What Van? Van of the Year award for the Transit Courier – a Ford first in the small van segment. 2015 will be the first full year that the entire four-van Transit range will be available and will coincide with the launch of Ford's specialist commercial vehicle dealerships and service centres.

"Transit Centres will be rolled out in over 100 locations across the UK, plus a further 90 service only points, cementing Ford's position as the largest commercial vehicle dealer network nationally."

Additionally, the Ford Transit was a recent winner at the 2014 ACFO Awards, the premier organisation for fleet operators, winning Large Van of the Year for the fourth consecutive year.



'Ford's revolution of its light commercial line-up has seen it offer the most comprehensive range of high-quality vehicles in the marketplace.'



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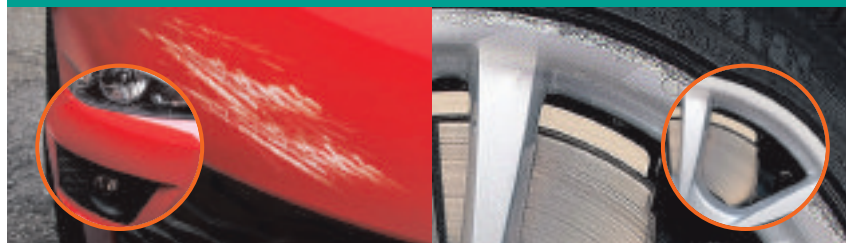
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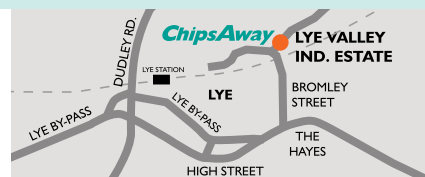
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All-new i40 for Europe revealed by Hyundai

By Matt Joy

Hyundai Motor has introduced its new i40 Tourer and Saloon, enhancing the brand's product line-up in Europe's competitive D-segment.

A flagship car for Hyundai Motor in Europe at its launch, the original i40 has achieved sales of 100,000 units and played an important role in changing customers' perceptions of the Hyundai brand.

The new i40 now features refined exterior styling, an up-graded range of responsive, efficient diesel engines, the addition of a new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission, improvements in ride and handling and several 'first-for-Hyundai' active safety and convenience features. Many of the new technologies were first seen on the new Hyundai Genesis.

Designed and engineered at the company's European R&D headquarters in Rüsselsheim, Germany, the refreshed design for New i40 retains the distinctive visual appeal and practicality of the original model, combining practicality with engaging design.

Exterior enhancements include an updated design for front and rear lamps, a more sophisticated hexagonal grille, a new front bumper, and new integrated LED fog lamps as introduced in Genesis. The profile is refreshed by newly-designed 16- and 18-inch alloy wheels.

New i40 is available with an enhanced engine line-up of two Euro6-compliant diesel power units from 115 PS up to 141 PS. These have been re-engineered to deliver increased responsiveness and efficiency.

Upgraded

A new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission is available for the upgraded 1.7-litre diesel engine with 141 PS. It provides improved fuel efficiency, and offers drivers fully automatic operation or manual gear changes through paddles on the steering wheel for greater driver involvement.

Technologies included: Integrated Stop & Go (ISG), alternator management system, and active front flaps help to further reduce emissions and fuel consumption.

For better cornering and to improve the overall agility, the New i40 now offers Advanced Traction Cornering Control (ATCC) (subject to market specification). The system uses electronic sensors to emulate the behaviour of a limited-slip differential during cornering, providing additional traction, better grip and improved handling.

New i40's Drive Mode settings are enhanced by the new Rear Electronic Damping Control System (ECS) (subject to market specification), which will be equipped on the rear axle of the most popular New i40 body type – the Tourer. The driver will also be able to adapt the suspension settings through the drive modes to suit his driving style. In addition to the rear suspension, the steering, the transmission logic* and throttle response* are all influenced by the selection. This technology follows the electronic damping control introduced on the Genesis.

Hyundai has expanded the comprehensive list of available active and passive safety technologies for the New i40 even further.

As well as the existing Lane Keep Assist System, additional functions include the new Smart High Beam (SHB) system (available subject to market specification), which monitors approaching traffic and automatically turns off the high beam to avoid dazzling other drivers. This system was first seen on the premium Genesis model.

The new Speed Limit Identification Function system checks roadside signs and displays a current speed limit alert to the driver via the new TFT display on the instrument panel. It is the first time Hyundai is bringing this technology to its line-up. (available subject to market specification)

Also introduced in the New i40 is the company's latest navigation technology with enhanced touchscreen functionality and new visualisation for better usability. The two new audio systems are available with several new features including DAB technology for the top version.

Like all new Hyundai models, the new i40 is backed up by Hyundai's unique, Europe-only, Five Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty package.



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Great value for money in new Jeep Renegade

Pricing for the all-new Jeep Renegade small SUV has just been announced. Order books for this exciting new addition to the Jeep range opened this week, ahead of its arrival mid-February.

With a starting price of just £16,995 on-the-road for the front-wheel drive 1.6-litre eTorq Evo 110hp Sport, the new car represents outstanding value for money.

At the top end of the exciting, all-new Renegade range, the highly specified 2.0-litre MJet 170hp 4WD Auto Low Trailhawk version costs £27,995 on-the-road, and features 17-inch aluminium wheels, dual zone climate control, transfer case, front suspension and fuel tank skid plates, heated front seats and steering wheel, leather upholstery and rear parking sensors.

Unique

A special 'Opening Edition' version, limited to just 200 units will also be available at launch in Alpine White or Omaha Orange, both incorporating a black painted roof and with a unique interior and 18-inch wheels.

The all-new Jeep Renegade is the first model in the brand's history to be built in Italy and the first vehicle from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles to be jointly developed by Italian and American designers and engineers. It will be sold in more than 100 countries including the United States.

In the UK, the new Jeep will be available in a full-range comprising four different trim levels – Sport, Longitude, Limited and Trailhawk – equipped with efficient turbo-diesel and petrol engines and available in four-wheel drive or front-wheel drive configurations.

Packed with a strong style and personality, and the right size for both city and countryside, new Renegade has best-in-class interior roominess, excellent on-road driving dynamics and supreme off-road capabilities. It has also just been awarded a Euro NCAP five-star safety rating.

The car's advanced 4x4 systems incorporate a category-exclusive rear axle disconnect that switches seamlessly between

two- and four-wheel-drive for reduced energy loss when 4x4 capability isn't needed, improving fuel efficiency in the process. And the first-in-segment nine-speed automatic transmission ensures benchmark performance both on- and off-road.

From any angle Renegade reveals the distinctive design cues of the brand's stylistic heritage, such as round headlamps, signature seven-slot grille and trapezoidal wheel arches.

Two open-air roof systems will be available to provide customers with open-air freedom: a large electric sliding glass roof or the unique-to-segment 'My Sky' – its two panels can be removed and stowed in the boot.

The interior features a modern, refined look, in line with the brand's DNA. The cabin is characterised by attention to detail, innovative colour combinations, high-quality materials, advanced technological contents and clever and functional storage areas.

Standard equipment in the well-equipped entry-level Sport includes air conditioning, DAB radio with touchscreen and Bluetooth, electric parking brake, 16-inch alloy wheels, tyre pressure monitoring, and remote central locking.

Longitude adds features including 17-inch aluminium wheels, six-speaker audio system, roof rails, body coloured door mirrors and handles, cruise control, and front fog lamps.

Limited version further adds 18-inch aluminium wheels, chromed exhaust tip, Forward Collision Mitigation, heated front seats and steering wheel, leather upholstery, privacy glass and rear parking sensors.

"We have all been eagerly awaiting Renegade – here at Jeep, our customers, dealers and the media – and its arrival is now just a few weeks away," says Damien Dally, head of brand, Jeep UK.

"It's exactly what the Jeep brand needs now and certainly, we have seen a huge interest in this exciting new car.

"Jeep is the original 'Go Anywhere, Do Anything' brand, and we are confident that we can offer great cars at exceptional value to keep Renegade at the front of all prospective buyers' minds."



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Moves from only **£99**
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flat/house removals/clearances,
local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121
422 2999 or 07815 043724
CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic,
Deliveries/Relocation/full house
item. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870
01384 940260 / 01922 263460.
CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.
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07899 635852.

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Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast,
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4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

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boys/girls. 01905 620039.
CHIHUAHUA, male, 5 years old,
£200.
Telephone 01902 736804.
CHIHUAHUA PUPS 2 boys. £450
each. One girl from another litter.
£600. All 12 weeks. 01902 651019.
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07779 742080.

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

MALE BLUE Staffordshire Bull
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RESPONSIBLE HOMES NEEDED

BUTCH Yorkshire Boy, 9 years
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This two beautiful little dogs
need a new home preferably
together due to their owners ill
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They have lovely tempera-
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Will separate if necessary also
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For more info call 01384
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guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

vets

Express & Star

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Advisors on
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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to
take appropriate professional
advice before entering any obli-
gations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an
offence under the Accommodation
Agencies Act 1983, for an Agency
to charge a fee simply for the regis-
tration of your requirements and/or
supplying particulars of premises to
let.

DUDLEY, OLDBURY/ Blackheath
1/2 bed flats, deposit / rent neg.
0121 550 0054 or 07570 980355.

FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE to let in
Netherpton. CH, DG, EPC=D.
£595pw inc bills. No DSS. 01384
401747 / 07940 116130.

SMART ROOMS in shared house in
Netherpton. Single £85pw, Double
£95pw inc bills. No DSS. 01384
401747 / 07940 116130.

TIPTON ONE bed flat, unfurnished,
double glazing, DSS ok.
Call or text 07754 076795.

bungalows

TWO BUNGALOWS
SEMI DETACHED
KIDDERMINSTER
Both two bedroom.
In need of modernisation.
Substantial plot of land.
Four car workshop at rear.
Sold as one unit.
£265,000.
Telephone 01562 822266
(after 7pm).

TWO BUNGALOWS
SEMI DETACHED
KIDDERMINSTER
Both two bedroom.
In need of modernisation.
Substantial plot of land.
Four car workshop at rear.
Sold as one unit.
£265,000.
Telephone 01562 822266
(after 7pm).

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Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
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properties wanted

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WILL PAY 15K MORE
Complete within 7 days
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FreeAds

properties wanted



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8 Motoring
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2004, grey, 1998cc, 12 months MoT, excellent condition. £1,700 ono. 07963 393529.
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EXCELLENT CONDITION
NISSAN MICRA SPORT
2006, 53,500 miles, SR, silver, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, 6CD, 5 door, alloys, climate control, MoT, lovely car. £2,495 ono. 07725 403038.
BMW 325i CONVERTIBLE
2006. 74,000 miles. MoT till July 15. Power hood. Black. Alloys. Air Con. Cruise Control. New car for sale. £4,500 ono. 07505 137118.
FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA, 2004. 56,000 miles, baby blue, MoT, very clean, a/c, ish. £2,000. 07522 475039.

jobs.expressandstar.com REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi SE SW, 2010, black, 53,000 miles, FSH, very clean car, 2 owners from new, £6,150 ono 07503 000940.

TOYOTA LAND CRUISER AMAZON VX 7 seater, 4.7 LPG petrol, X reg, 2000, long MOT, 125,000 miles. Top of the range. Nice condition, £5,800 May Part exchange. Telephone 07904 612854.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 petrol, 3dr, silver, 59 plate, 26,000 miles, lady owner, clean and genuine car, £4,600 ono. 07503 000940.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 2003, MoT April, good runner, £500 ono. 07816 818297.

FORD ESCORT silver, 2000, 1597cc, 1 owner from new, 68,000k 12 months MoT, very clean and tidy, £465 ono. 07584 191793.

FORD FIESTA FLIGHT, 2001, red, petrol, 3 door, 47,500 miles, MoT'd till June, sun roof, £500 ono. 07976 249031.

HYUNDAI COUPE T Reg, 32,000 miles, 3 owners, automatic, 10 months MoT, £700 o.n.o. 01902 659047.

PEUGEOT 106 1.1L ZEST, 3 door, long MoT, sunroof, £325 ons. Telephone 07760 887220.

PEUGEOT 206 1.3, 05 plate, 59,349 miles, metallic blue, six months MoT, £1100. 07532 002180.

ROVER 75 Connoisseur 03, all leather interior, heated seats, MoT till end of March 2015, £800 ono. 07976 375078.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2003 (52 plate), 1.2sxi, 100,000 miles, green, 3 door, MoT till July 2015, £300 ono. 07933 057820.

VW POLO E Hatchback 3dr, 1000cc, blue, 12 months MoT, very clean and tidy, must be seen. £795 ono. 07904 427555.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED

Private cash buyer
Instant cash settlement.
Any age, any condition.
Call Market Drayton.
01630 652993.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT, 1996, MoT June, £500. Telephone 07946 417363.

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Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
AD/IDP REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available.
07970 200066 / 01922 780250
01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPER! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED
FREE COLLECTION
WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
01902 562853
07977 499516
07895 346811- 24 hrs

A B SPARES
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All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
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Free Collection
Scrap it Legally CDD. Given Instant Payment.
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VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts
available at all times
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ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best
Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
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Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 /
07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars/vans. 07555 664369 / 07903 549949.

WANTED FORD TRANSIT van, SWB, must be clean condition. 07930 637039. 01902 674772.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

CAR TRAILER 7X5FT
Dropdown tail board,
lights, jockey wheel, good
condition
£260 ono.
01691 661767 or 07980 573406.

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 849469.

9
Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10
Personals

personal

GENT, 70'S
tall, slim, non smoker, likes walking, seaside holidays, car owner, would like to meet Lady, same, 10 miles of Wolverhampton, photo please (returned). All replies answered. New Year - New Life.
Box Number C19632, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

ACTIVE PENSIONER
Must live close to Bushbury Crematorium.
Required to attend a grave with flowers on a weekly basis.
For further details e-mail muchall@aol.com

LONDON THEATRE BREAKS



Choose your show, price band*and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket and an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel with full English breakfast. Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £159.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top price ticket for a Friday evening performance.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999
(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm),

or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

SHOPPERS CHECK OUT LOCAL ADVERTISING

41% of people decide where to shop as a result of seeing advertising in local media - ahead of supermarket promotions (25%), direct mail (21%) and TV advertising (19%)

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

To find out more about advertising in the Express & Star call 01902 31 31 31

Express & Star

Local Specialists



Aerials

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Sandwell
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE **FREE QUOTES FIXED PRICES**
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 Luke's Mobile: 07864 590543
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DIGITAL AERIAL + CABLE to any room £59
NEW CABLE £39 REMOVE AERIAL £29
REPAIRS £39 TUNING £25
SATELLITE DISH Fitted £69 DISH REPAIRS £39
DIGITAL AERIAL To 2 Rooms JUST £80
3 Rooms JUST £100 4 Rooms JUST £120

Carpet & Upholstery cleaning

CLEANCARE

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners
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Friendly Service
 For Free Quotes
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 07816 817744

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 Does your house wiring need a MOT?
J S Quality Electrical Services Ltd are offering a Winter Deal not to be missed on all new fuseboard upgrades, we only supply and fit the latest and safest fuseboards along with a Part P Electrical Installation Certificate. Also included with the fuseboard change is a full MOT of your entire house wiring.
 Call us today on
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 *Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
 *Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
 *Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation
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 AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified,
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Blinds & Curtains

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 -10% off thermally efficient Shutters and outdoor awnings!
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 Residential and Commercial work undertaken
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 • Turfing • Garden Clearance
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• A Good reliable service,
 • A Name you can trust
 • All areas covered
 So don't delay phone today for a FREE quotation
07407 622855

R & S Gardens

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Midlands Handyman for Home Improvements

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 • Laying of ceramic/laminate floors • Hanging doors
 ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES
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Mot's

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£27.99
 with this advert
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 (rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ
0121 559 6001



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2

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3

Post to...
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Women seeking men

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PATRICIA widow 67, likes simple pleasures in
life, seeks a gentle N/S for
friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415685**

50 year old widow, love reading, walking,
horse riding, clay shooting, swimming & keep
fit, 5ft 5 blond hair, gosh looking for similar
male. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4435776**

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft
5ins, slim, seeks male, Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

FEMALE looking for male any age for fun,
meet ups, friendship and take it from there.
Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4550576

GEM 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big
eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTm
kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious
relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415571**

SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45yr old
female looking for genuine companionship,
someone to spend quality times with, enjoy
music and cosy times together. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415543**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored,
seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls
answered. Tel No: **0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

HOME alone far too often, attractive bubbly
fun good time girl 32yrs seeking male 30-
50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid
the boredom! Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415523**

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty
boys of any age for a night time fun. Tel No:
0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443

SUE attractive, independent, confident
female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good
books, looking for romantic, sensitive nice
guy for nice times together. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415501**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married
but seeks no strings fun with discreet man,
any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel
No: **0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins,
seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and
understanding. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

LUCY, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreet fun
with men any age. Aca. Tel No: **0905 002 1941 Box No: 365051**

AMANDA 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys
the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking
romantic considerate soul male to broaden
my horizons. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415391**

SEXY brunette, mid 20's bubbly, adventurous
broad minded seeks no strings fun. Tel No:
0905 002 1949 Box No: 361739

SAM attractive single mum who really enjoys
life and likes to be happy WLTm genuine
single male/dad for mutual companionship,
dates in/out and tlc. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415381**

SALLY, 38yrs large cuddly lady seeks slim
man for discreet meetings. **Text Only**
4550193

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins,
seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and
understanding. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

TRUDY 36yrs, wltm broadminded men of any
age/area for daytime meetings. **Text Only**
4550194

23YR old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy,
any age for fun and much more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415367**

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call
if you want no strings fun. **Text Only 4550198**

YOUNG looking female, likes rock music,
concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male with
similar interests for relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

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Men seeking women

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per minute plus network ex-
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sage sent.

JENNI, 52 bored housewife wants no strings
fun with younger chap. **Text Only 4550197**

MANDY very attractive, slim single mum
36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share
some quality times with similar genuine kind
hearted social male/dad. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415409**

DIANE attractive singleton seeks male to
have some fun with, meals out, cinema,
dancing and just see were things lead from
there. Age/race unimportant. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415373**

SHELIA Asian 20yr old female, very pretty,
feminine with long blonde hair, enjoys N/S
out, seeking mature white male 55plus for
discreet fun. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415181**

MARGARET 39, attractive active female
likes animals, reading, meals in/out, seeking
considerate partner for good laughs,
companionship, shared interests and more.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414727**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse
riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH,
N/S, non drinker, seeks male, Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

BUBBLY larger than life 28yr old blonde
bombshell, seeks large built male to fulfil my
every fantasy! Give me a call; I will totally
make your day maybe even your year. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414977**

BARBARA 38 slim sporty attractive blonde,
varied interests, single and ready to date,
seeks kind honest guy for shared interests,
fun nights out, hopefully leading to more. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414967**

JULIE single petite attractive big blue eyed
brunette, loves cooking a cosy meal in, nights
out, searching for real love with genuinely
nice guy. Looks unimportant. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414491**

GOOD looking professional lady, 56, enjoys
the arts, country walks, meals out, seeks
compatible, genuine, professional gent to
enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415007**

ANGIE 38yrs slim blonde, ex model with
lovely long legs with shapely figure, fit, toned,
sporty, confident but warm, WLTm 30-40s
seeks kind honest guy for shared interests,
fun nights out, hopefully leading to more. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414723**

BECKY stunning big blue eyed 38yr old
honest, caring and fun person looking for nice
times with similar outgoing fun guy,
status/age unimportant. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414391**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere,
N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks.
West Midlands. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

NICOLA 32, blue eyes, petite, pretty
brunette, shy at first, trustworthy, caring,
varied hobbies, seeks male/single dad up to
40yrs for tlc possible tlc. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414707**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go
all the way up to heaven, WLTm very
appreciative confident male for adult fun.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

KAREN petite 34yr old attractive blonde,
likes pubs, clubs, meals out, gym, looking for
honest caring guy who can make me laugh. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414373**

ANN looking for no strings adult fun,
broadminded and great fun, blonde, attractive
and discreet. Call me. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414363**

JANE 5ft5ins blue eyed attractive curvy
maternal student with happy disposition, enjoys
meals or drinks in/out, keeping fit, walking,
seeking genuine fun male with GSOH. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414229**

ARE you Mr Wonderful? Lesley attractive
slim Auburn haired fit lady who loves life and
fully intends to live it to the full, seeking
similar caring, patient man. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414213**

KATY 26 slim beautiful discreet blue eyed
blonde looking for mature gent for some
time, N/S, GSOH, looking for a fun, un-
complicated fun. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414209**

ANNABELLE 29 slim tanned beautiful
sophisticated sensual brunette, loves the high
life, Champaign lunches, weekends away,
seeks very own sugar daddy for sweet
nothings. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414191**

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for
friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329**

Women seeking women

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per minute plus network ex-
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sage sent.

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent
to share conversation and have a great time,
friendship/relationship, who knows? Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner
dates, partying and generally having a good
time with generous man looking for his mojito
No strings, go on call me. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599**

DEBBE petite attractive Auburn haired, good
listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy
nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring
N/S single dad. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387**

JAN slim curvy professional warm,
affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy
with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses
and bikes for romance. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167**

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks
tall, slim male for a cut above the average
relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725**

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big
personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking
honest, caring male who can make me laugh.
Nothing too serious just fun. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377**

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days
out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTm older
male in his 60's with a good personality and
big heart. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359**

JULIE really fun loving slim petite female 38
looking for nice guy to go out with, get to
know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with
him. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517**

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female
looking for that special man in my life, any
age, to get to know and see what happens,
you only live once remember! **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959**

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even
football, looking for my Mr Wonderful though
I would give this a try. Come on what do we
have to loose, call me. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765**

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy
going, broadminded looking for likeminded
male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717**

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive,
enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily
looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr
Right now could be fun! Call me. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for
a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just
wants good company and a nice relationship.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641**

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female
looking to enjoy dates with similar male for
a real time for fun times in or out. Age, looks
unimportant. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565**

PAULINE attractive divorced female with
no ties, employed with my own home, likes
nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right
person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039**

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with
OHAC seeks confident fit professional male
to enjoy and share good times, if that's your
style. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949**

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well
built, educated, verbal, articulate dumb or sub,
broadminded and ready to be put in your
place? Curious to find out more? call me. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637**

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well
travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with
lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate
and treat me well. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177**

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal
female who likes shopping, socialising, nights
in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041**

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes,
GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach
walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving
man for tlc. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777**

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music,
concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with
similar interests for fun times. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919**

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking,
music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable
gent, possibly farmer for friendship. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one,
sensual and very attractive, looking for a real
man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy
each other's company. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695**

Men seeking men

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LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs,
seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of
life with, age, status and looks unimportant.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691**

LINDA single and living alone, attractive,
young looking, bubbly, WLTm similar young
at heart companion to be close with, enjoy
chats and romantic dates. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119**

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive,
likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere,
N/S male. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745**

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus,
N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings,
WLTm sincere, caring male, 69-74 for
companionship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711**

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy
distractions with fun adult companion,
interested? You won't be disappointed, give
me a call. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281**

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian
female with GSOH and down to earth
attitude, looking for likeminded male for date
nights, hopefully more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219**

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins,
OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading,
seeks genuine, friendly, professional male
with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female,
likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy,
seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459**

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female
looking for that special man in my life, any
age, to get to know and see what happens,
you only live once remember! **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959**

GARY 6ft 2ins, dark hair, brown eyes,
medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks
female, 30-50. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414845**

SLIM male, 59, seeks no strings adult fun
with broadminded mature woman, 65 plus.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414983**

ROY 6ft 2ins, late 50's, seeks female. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 414775

SEAN looking for female to share a coffee,
pub, clubs and more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414549**

GENUINE friendly, N/S professional, honest
gent, medium build, GSOH, good heart
essential, seeks equivalent lady, 45-60 for
company and conversation. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414311**

MATURE male, 6ft, GSOH, fit, active, loving,
honest, N/S, seeks female with similar
qualities. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414261**

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, N/S, easy
going male, 68, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine
lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414151**

EXTREMELY genuine! Life's true gent, 54,
slim, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S,
GSOH, seeks female, 41-52. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413925**

JOHN 40, tall, athletic, active, adventurous,
cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life,
seeks similar fun female. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414067**

34YR old slim, dark haired, creative,
adventurous, likes music, cycling and
photography, seeks likeminded female to
share fun and happiness with. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking
genuine, honest, caring female. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

PHIL 57, medium build, seeks female for
friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414063**

MALE requiring female company, enjoys
evenings in, sports and more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414059**

GEORGE 60 seeks Asian/Oriental female for
no strings fun and weekends away. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 413707

STEVE 60, seeks slim blonde for no strings
fun and weekends away. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413703**

JEFF young 62, N/S, tall, fit, energetic,
seeking new female. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413053**

Men seeking women

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per minute plus network ex-
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sage sent.

JOHN 46, West Midlands, seeks local
black/Asian female, 30-70 for discreet adult
fun, can travel. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415591**

SHAUN 26 likes walking, singing, music,
would like to meet someone my own age for
friendship maybe relationship. **Text Only**
Mailbox Box No: 4567328

MALE seeking fun bubbly female, 21-30. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415473**

GENUINE guy looking for uncomplicated fun
with lady up to 50 txc only will answer all txt.
Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4026069

WINK 26 **800998**

GENTLEMAN retired, N/S, seeking lady for
companionship and sharing good times with.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No:**

Town side come into 2015 on a downer

Tipton Town 0 Causeway Utd 1
AFTER finishing 2014 on a high in the Midland Football League, Premier Division with a first win under the management duo of Nick Pugh and Wes Cox, Tipton will be disappointed to have opened 2015 with a lacklustre display.

Their opponents Causeway, themselves had a new man at the helm – Mark Jones who has Andy Mole since their last outing.

On a bitterly cold January day, the opening exchanges were even as the two sides – understandably, given the pressures of league positions – weighed each other up in midfield with only the sporadic effort on goal being comfortably taken by the two goalkeepers.

After 18 minutes it was the Tipton goal which felt the first real pressure, as a corner kick resulted in a goalmouth scramble which eventually saw Tipton ‘keeper Matt Martin collect the ball.

The deadlock was broken in the 44th minute when excellent work down the Causeway left resulted in the ball being squared to Sam Beasley who made no mistake in drilling the ball past Martin.

Course to train refs of future

A STAFFORDSHIRE college will host a course starting next week for anyone thinking of becoming a football referee.

The Staffordshire FA will run the course, starting January 12 at Erasmus Darwin College in Chasetown.

The course, which costs £110 per person, consists of five modules covering the 17 laws of the game.

These will be covering areas such as the art of positioning and movement, management strategies and ideas on decision-making and effective reporting of misconduct.

The course is open to anyone aged 16 and above, and for more information contact Gemma Turner on 01785 279828.

Mogridge eager to help club to more glory

CRADLEY new-boy Arron Mogridge is desperate to help the club claim an unprecedented third consecutive National League title.

Mogridge is the final member of the Heathens’ side for the 2015 campaign, joining returning trio Max Clegg, Nathan Greaves and Matt Williamson plus fellow new signings Ellis Perks, Luke Harris and Michael Neale.

The 23-year-old, who is the son of former rider Alan, made his National League bow with Scunthorpe in 2014, achieving an encouraging 4.36 average following some promising displays.

Speedway

Having spent his debut season languishing at the bottom of the table with an inexperienced Stags side, Mogridge is eager to be in the mix for title glory this time around.

And having recognised the history behind the Cradley race jacket, he is looking for a strong season to help the club repeat their memorable title triumphs of the past two seasons when they move to Perry Barr.

Mogridge said: “I’m over the moon to

have signed for Cradley and I’m very much looking forward to it.

“Obviously there is a great deal of history with regards to the club that I’m sure I’ll get to know more and more.

“I’m very aware of the great support which is something I’m looking forward to. It’s going to be an honour to ride for the Heathens.

“I’m looking forward to hopefully battling for the National League title.

“It would be great to help the club defend the title after they’ve won it the last two years, and after Scunthorpe struggled it would be brilliant to be involved with a

team towards the right end of the table.

“I feel like I’ve joined a club which will give me a really good platform to keep improving as a rider.”

“I just want to have a good, consistent season and build on what I achieved in 2014.”

Fans will have the chance to welcome Mogridge and the rest of the Heathens side at a Meet the Riders Night at the Copthorne Hotel on March 11.

They will host their press and practice day from their new Birmingham base at midday before making the trip to the Briarley Hill (8pm). Tickets are £5 .

Baggies is my biggest challenge, says Pulis

THE new boss of Albion Tony Pulis believes he has taken on the biggest challenge of his career.

But despite five enjoyable months spent playing with his grandchildren and broadening his horizons, he insists he couldn’t turn it down.

Since leaving Crystal Palace in dramatic fashion on the eve of the new season, Pulis has thrown himself into family life as well as travelling the world and visiting the battlefields of the First World War.

Yet when Baggies chairman Jeremy Peace came calling, Pulis couldn’t help but give up his life of education and relaxation in search of his latest football fix.

However, the man who kept Palace up last season despite taking on a team bottom of the table with just four points from 11 games reckons his latest mission is even tougher.

“Everybody had written Palace off so it was backs against the wall and everybody against us so we had that motivation,” he said.

“Here we will have to find a different angle, without a doubt, to get the players motivated. I will do my best and work as hard as it takes and I just hope my best...is good enough.”

“Is it my biggest challenge? Oh yes, because it’s such a short period and this has been going on at West Brom for a while now.

“This hasn’t just happened, it hasn’t just fallen off, this has been going on for a while – since Roy Hodgson left it’s dropped off a bit.

“So there’s a lot of work to be done and you have to

Football

give the chairman a lot of credit because he understands now that that is the situation.”

Pulis admits his sleep patterns, which had been regular and comfortable, have already begun to change since he agreed to take charge at The Hawthorns.

And he says he enjoyed his time away from the game, which began when he walked out of Selhurst Park having fallen out with co-chairman Steve Parrish on the back of the rescue act that earned him the title of Premier League manager of the year.

“It has been lovely spending time with my two grandchildren, Grace and Luca – a wonderful experience,” said the 56-year-old.

“But my wife’s delighted I will now be out of the house! And I can’t say I haven’t missed it. I think you do miss it, but I’ve enjoyed my grandchildren.”

In a decade at Stoke over two spells, Pulis moulded the club into an established Premier League force and led them to an FA Cup final before leaving for a second time in 2013.

Glassboys get New Year off to flying start



Brown wheels away in delight after scoring his goal for Stourbridge during the shutout against Witton

Stourbridge 3 Witton Albion 0
STOURBRIDGE brushed off their poor performance at Rushall on New Year’s Day to impress in front of the home fans.

They were always on top against a Witton side who are struggling to get away from the lower reaches of the Evo-Stik Premier Division and move up to 10th place in the league table.

The Glassboys pushed from the start and Kayelden Brown went close

on eight minutes but saw his shot tipped over by visiting goalkeeper Andy Robertson. But from the resulting corner taken by Drew Canavan, Exodus Geohagon produced a bullet header from close range to give the keeper no chance and notch his first goal for the Glassboys.

Witton almost equalised shortly after with their only real chance of the game when Luke Clark sent a great free-kick towards goal but

it was tipped onto the bar by Dean Coleman.

On 20 minutes, Luke Benbow slipped a short through ball to Brown who applied the finish to make it 2-0.

It could have been four by half-time, as Benbow had two good chances.

Although there were not as many chances in the second half, Stourbridge scored on 63 minutes through George Bowerman .

Athletes step into New Year with run

DUDLEY and Stourbridge Harriers athletes where well to the fore at the weekend when they were taking part in the Worcestershire County cross country Championships at Cofton Park.

For the men Lee Slater continued his fine form taking the senior title with a time of 35min 30sec.

Dave Nation was 15th in 39.25; Paul Waby just behind in 18th in 39.57 and also taking the veteran M50 title.

Also for the club was Dave Ratcliffe who came in 22nd with a time of 41.06 and next was Rob Meredith a few seconds later 27th with 41.43.

Tom Slater was another winner in the under-13 boys race, leading the Dash team to second place as Adam Horton finished in ninth place in front of Adam Bodin who came in 11th followed by Harry Walters 12th.

Reece Ashfield ran well for fourth in the under-15 boys race and Jay Priantoro 10th.

Tom’s sister Grace Slater had a great run as she finished fifth in the under-13 girls race.

Elliot Jones in the under-17 boys race ran well for fifth place with Ashleigh Bentley coming in with the seventh spot.

Khalsa’s keeper is the killer

Dudley Town 1 Sporting Khalsa 1 (Khalsa win 3-2 pens)

A brilliant performance by Khalsa keeper James Pemberton helped Sporting Khalsa into the semi-finals of the West Midlands League Cup.

The deadlock was broken five minutes before the interval when Rhys Morgan poked past the onrushing Pemberton to give the home side the lead.

Craig Bannister levelled things up for Khalsa with header.

Pemberton was the hero, saving kicks from Alex Perry, Ben Jordan and Ashman while Lee Wherton, Mike Perks and Brad Lawley sent Ian Rowe’s side into the semi-finals.

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Annual running ritual for DK club

THE New Year started with a bang for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club with the club's traditional New Year's Day Handicap race.

A 4.1 mile event goes from DK Rugby Club.

Rather than every runner starting together the slowest goes off first and the fastest goes off last with everyone else given adjusted start times in between the two depending on their ability with the intention that, if the handicapper has done his job properly, everyone finishes together.

With someone to chase and someone chasing you it makes for an interesting spectacle as runners approach the finish together in a big group.

With the race open to all-comers, not just DK members, it was left to Tipton Harrier, Tom Holden to record the fastest time of the day finishing in 21.43, from the DK pair of Ben Foster in 22.09 and Matt Biggs in 23.54.

In the women's event it was a home win for Sandra Brain who finished in 29.11. Cath Quane was runner up in 31.21 and Carol Fisher was 3rd in 31.31 making it a clean sweep for the blue hoops.

The prize for "nearest the handicap" going to Daren Thompson.

Varnish picked for cup squad

JESS VARNISH has been included in a young Great Britain squad for the third and final round of the Track World Cup series, affording senior riders a break ahead of the Track World Championships.

Results at the London round left coaches reaching for their calculators to work out qualification points for February's World Championships in Paris.

Britain won four gold medals in London and only two of the squad from this month's event will travel to Cali, Colombia, for the third World Cup competition, which takes place from January 16 to 18.

Halesowen Cycling Club's Varnish and Vicky Williamson will compete in the women's sprint disciplines as part of a 16-rider squad of predominantly of British Cycling's Olympic Academy Programme riders.

Penalties prove a problem for Old Hales

Nuneaton 24 Old Halesonians 14

OLD Hales were disrupted by a late cry off from coach Mark Evans and Skipper Rich Taylor. The front row was made up of Tom Dempsey, Callum Young at hooker and Pete Fitzgerald taking Taylor's place on the loose head after weeks of injury.

For the first 12 minutes Hales put pressure on the home team.

They managed to get themselves a 14-0 lead, the first try from some excellent forward and back combination play following a lineout ball from Tom King for full back Chris Hooper to score a well worked try,

Rugby

converted by him.

Shortly after a Nuneaton attack saw a long pass in the backs, intercepted by Hooper, who sprinted 50 metres for his second try and conversion.

All this despite Hales being under immediate pressure from the home pack, this continued throughout the game. Hales gave away far too many penalties.

This resulted in three of the four penalties converted to reduce the deficit to 9

-14. Hales managed to put themselves in try scoring positions near to the Nuneaton line but failed to take advantage.

Continued pressure close to the Nuns line was not capitalised on despite the home side at one point down to 14 men. This was a crucial part of the game, the half time lead left Hales in a confident position with lots to do.

The second half was all Nuneaton with Hales struggling to dominate. The penalty count continued. Nuns continued the pressure.

A penalty and a converted try in close

succession gave Nuns the lead and Hales were again against it when prop Padian received a yellow card. The home side again took the game to Hales and an interception gave them the win.

Team manager Simon Hussey said "We did not compete up front and gave too many penalties away, something we thought we had solved."

Old Hales meet Sutton Coldfield away this Saturday, kick off 2.15pm.

Old Halesonians 2nds 13 Nuneaton 2nds 10

Old Halesonians 4ths 40 Essington 10

Scores are two a Penney

Coalville 2 Tividale 2

TIVIDALE took a point home from pre-season league title favourites Coalville Town, grabbing seven out of a possible nine points in total.

Tividale opened the scoring on 20 minutes when Jean-Michel Gueyes and Zach Foster combined down the left and Foster's deep cross was headed home at the back post by Nigel Penney.

There was no letting up to the action in the second half and Coalville were level within five minutes of the start.

First-half hero Price fumbled Alex Dean's regulation cross and Woolley was first to react and he stabbed the ball home.

A minute later Tividale had restored their lead. Downing's free-kick was only half-cleared and Penney swept home his and Tividale's second from just inside the box. Coalville were now having all the possession and Tividale were retreating further into their penalty area and depending more on the counter-attack.

On 87 minutes, Coalville were level. The lively Munn gave Price no chance.

Derby day for FA Cup draw

ALBION will travel to Blues for a Midlands derby in the FA Cup fourth round.

The Baggies will visit St Andrew's for the first time since March 2011, when they won 3-1 when both were Premier League sides.

Wolves will go to Premier League Sunderland if they beat Fulham in the replay. Villa face Bournemouth.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford, Thursday, January 8

YELTZ SPOT ON IN BOUNCE BACK

Halesowen Town 4 Barwell 1

HALESOWEN bounced back to winning ways with a convincing victory.

In this match three goals came from the penalty spot. The win completed Halesowen's first double of the season and saw them progress above their nearest geographical neighbours in the league table.

Man of the match Aaron Daniels caused all the early danger and fired Halesowen into an eighth minute lead with a smart finish from the left after being set up by Tom Tonks to register his first Halesowen goal.

Captain Joe Hull headed at goalkeeper James Beeson in the 13th minute before Barwell earned their first corner in the 17th minute with Anthony Carney blasting the loose ball off target.

Surged

Just before the interval, danger-men Daniels set up Christie to volley just wide and Kris Green surged down

the right to fire another chance just over the Barwell bar after Tonks won the ball in midfield and fed Christie.

The Yeltz had the benefit of the wind behind them in the second period, although the opening stages gave little hint of the drama to unfold as Beeson punched clear a long throw-in from Tonks in the 52nd minute and Daniels was blocked on the turn after Hull headed on another long Tonks throw-in.

Penalties came thick and fast midway through the second half with referee Stuart Eagland awarding three within six minutes.

Football

In the 61st minute Daniels broke free into the penalty box and although his first shot was blocked, he recovered and was impeded on his second attempt with Eagland pointing to the spot.

Christie jinked on his run up before smacking home the perfect, unstoppable penalty into the top corner to double Halesowen's lead.

Christie was substituted and after goalkeeper Beeson needlessly pushed Daniels near the bye-line, the responsibility of a second penalty award fell for Aaron Forde to convert the spot-kick.

But Barwell reduced the arrears when Carney stroked home another penalty kick into the bottom corner on 67 minutes at the other end.

With the points already safe, the Yeltz almost increased the lead when Daniels struck wide in the 78th minute after being set free by substitute Ben Haseley.

But substitute Elliott Turner completed the scoring at 4-1 as his low shot hit home.

In injury time Turner almost added a fifth.

DK stay at rock bottom after another loss



Rhod Williams dives low to make the tackle in a game where South Leicester took the spoils

DK 6 South Leicester 36

DK are rock bottom of National League Three Midlands after losing to leaders South Leicester.

South Leicester proved why they are top of the league with 68 points, with probably the most assured performance against DK at Heathbrook this season.

DK's best chance of scoring a try came in the second half when the home side had put together a series

of drives and resulting rucks by the forwards, they were steadily approaching the South Leicester try line.

The ball shot out of a ruck, and South Leicester kicked for touch, the kick did not make it and was collected by Donavan Smile, who had open ground to run into with supporting players.

He was halted by a blast on the referee's whistle, who was drawn to

a fight taking place under the South Leicester posts, which he resolved by giving two of the five yellow cards he issued during the game.

Though, perhaps the two tries scored by South Leicester's big wing Lee Robinson, summed up DK's problems, his first try was on 18 minutes.

His second was a simple run in. Jamie Hearn was able to kick two penalties.

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